Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-021 *2 February 1989*

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Cuba

Castro Arrives in Venezuela for Inauguration

FL0202141589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro arrived approximately 2 hours ago in Venezuela to attend the presidential inauguration of that country's head of state, Carlos Andres Perez. The commander in chief is there at the invitation of the Venezuelan leader.

Fidel was accompanied on his trip by PCC Central Committee secretary Carlos Aldana, Interior Minister Jose Abrantes, and Acting [as heard] Foreign Minister Jose R. Viera. Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who is in Caracas, will join the delegation. This is the second visit by Fidel to Venezuela. The first one was in January 1959, a few days after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

The initial reported reaction is that approximately 900 writers, journalists, and intellectuals published in the Caracas press a welcome message for the Cuban president. The message is also signed by musicians, political leaders, trade union members, professionals, and professors of Venezuelan national universities. The welcome message for Fidel says in one of its sections: We Venezuelan intellectuals and artists, as we greet you on your visit to our country, would like to express our deep respect for what you, as the principal leader of the Cuban Revolution, have achieved for the dignity of your people and consequently for all of Latin America.

The text of the welcome message for Fidel, signed by 900 intellectuals, artists, and Venezuelan politicians, later adds: During these dramatic times for the continent, only ideological blindness can deny the role that you represent in the process of the liberation history of our peoples.

The welcome message for Fidel concludes by indicating: Today, from the bosom of this nation, we affirm that Fidel Castro—in the midst of the (?battles), fought by him, that the social transformation has faced, and the new challenges that its collective progress implies—remains a beloved example of our deepest hopes for the building of a just, independent, and united Latin America.

Vice President's Activities in Venezuela Noted

Discusses Relations With U.S.

PA0102203789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 1 Feb (AFP)—During a brief meeting with reporters today in Caracas, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that Cuba "is willing to talk openly" with the United States in a climate of "mutual respect."

Rodriguez, who arrived in the Venezuelan capital to attend Carlos Andres Perez' inauguration as the new Venezuelan president, said he hopes U.S. policy toward Cuba will change now that George Bush is President.

Rodriguez said: "All that is necessary to reach an understanding with Cuba is to respect Cuba. Mutual respect, lifting the economic blockade, and returning the Guantanamo naval base are the requirements Cuba has set for establishing and maintaining smooth relations with the United States."

Rodriguez also said he does not intend to meet with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who is expected to arrive in Caracas today. The Cuban Vice President added: "A meeting with the U.S. President or vice president would not be unusual, because we are willing to talk openly."

He also pointed out: "We have opposed the United States for 30 years. We can live without the United States, but we would like to coexist with it. This coexistence, however, demands mutual respect. The United States should not continue the policy of aggression against Cuba it has followed for the past 30 years."

Rodriguez added that his country's relations with Nicaragua do not include intervention but "cooperation through military advisers. Cuba is willing to pull out its advisers immediately when Nicaragua states this desire. Cuba will withdraw its military advisers as soon as an agreement to withdraw all advisers from all Central American countries is reached."

Havana Reports Comments

FL0102233089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2303 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said today in Caracas that the United States needs to end its attacks on Cuba if it wants to solve the differences between the two countries. The Cuban vice president told reporters that Cuba has always stated that the United States needs to lift the blockade and return the Guantanamo navy base, among other conditions.

Rodriguez, who was specially invited by Carlos Andres Perez to attend his inauguration, denied that plans had been made to meet with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle in Caracas. Carlos Rafael said former U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Latin American policy and its attacks on Cuba were a failure. He told reporters that possible changes on this by the new George Bush administration need to be observed.

Attends SELA Meeting

FL0202020989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Numerous foreign delegations continue to arrive in Caracas to attend the inauguration of President-elect Carlos Andres Perez scheduled for tomorrow.

Various representatives present in the Venezuelan capital are holding meetings. Our special envoys report from this Latin American city:

[Reporter] Greetings friends. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of our country, participated in a meeting organized by the SELA, the Latin American Economic System, here in Caracas, Venezuela this afternoon. As part of the collateral activities to the inauguration ceremony for new Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, the regional economic organization held this Latin American regional unity event, attended by Latin American chiefs of state and government and numerous economic, political, and social figures, at the auditorium of the Romulo Gallegos House. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Visit To Reinforce Friendship Ties

FL0102135689 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The visit to Cuba by the supreme Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, next April will strengthen the construction of socialism in the two countries. That is what pilot-cosmonaut Vladimir Shatalov, chairman of the Soviet-Cuban Friendship Society, has said in Moscow. Shatalov said the visit will reinforce even more the bonds of friendship and understanding that are characteristic of the Soviet-Cuban relations that have existed for almost 3 decades.

Navy Chief Meets With Soviet Counterpart

FL0102125589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernavin, commander in chief of the USSR Navy, and Cuban Rear Admiral Pedro M. Perez Betancourt, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the Revolutionary Navy, have held a fraternal working meeting. During the meeting the officials discussed the combative fraternity between the two forces.

The Soviet admiral arrived in Cuba at the head of a military delegation and has visited important places of historical interest.

'Embassy-Level' Relations With Australia Begin

FL0102131889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The Governments of the Republic of Cuba and of the Commonwealth of Australia have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level. The two countries have had relations on a consular level since 1973.

The Government of Cuba has agreed to appoint its representative in the Philippines as the non-resident ambassador to Australia. Australia has appointed its ambassador to Mexico as the ambassador to Cuba.

The document making official the decision to establish relations between Cuba and Australia at the embassy level was signed in Mexico City by Jose Fernandez de Cossio, Cuban ambassador to Mexico, and His Excellency William Farmer, ambassador of Australia.

Socialist Peace Committees Meet in Havana

FL0102191589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The annual consultative meeting of the peace committees of socialist countries began in Havana today. During the next 3 days representatives from 13 socialist countries will analyze the work accomplished this past year and will discuss, in view of recent developments, the contributions made toward disarmament and easing of international tension.

Ramesh Chandra, president of the WPC, is among the personalities present at the meeting. Orlando Fundora gave the opening speech at the meeting:

[Begin Fundora recording] We should all struggle so that there is not one peace for the rich and another for the poor. We want, as Fidel said at the main ceremony of the 30th anniversay of the triumph of our revolution, peace with respect. We want peace with rights, independence, and security for all the nations of the world. This is the peace for which we should all struggle. [end recording]

WPC's Chandra Interviewed

FL0202023789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The annual consultative meeting of the committees for peace from socialist countries began in this capital today. Among the figures attending the meeting is Mr Ramesh Chandra, chairman of the WPC. He granted an interview to this newscast:

[Begin recording] [Reporter Rosalia Arnaez] Mr Ramesh Chandra, we would like to learn about your views on the contribution made by our country to peace in southwest Africa.

[Chandra, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] I think that what Cuba has done for Angola, Namibia, and southern Africa in general will always be remembered in the history of real internationalist actions. It would be correct to say that the Cuban forces have done a tremendous job. At this moment, the new quadripartite agreement would have not been reached without the great wisdom, strength, and contributions of Cuba.

I think Cuba, along with Angola, has helped immensely toward the implementation of UN Resolution 435, which will bring independence to Namibia and security for Angola. The WPC and all forces that represent peace are thankful and regard very highly the effort made by

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Cuba. We congratulate all of Cuba. There is still much to be done. We will stand with the people of Namibia and the people from Angola and Cuba for efforts for peace, justice, sovereignty, and independence in southern Africa. [end recording]

Romanian-Built Tanker '15 April' Registered

FL0102132489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The last of five tankers built for Cuba in the shipyards of Braila has been registered. The ship has a deadweight of 5,000 tons and was given the name "15 April." Last December Cuba and Romania signed a bilateral trade agreement worth 264 million rubles.

Country To Manufacture, Import More TV Sets

FL0102133589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] In Cuba this year, 20,000 black-and-white television sets will be manufactured. Another 70,000 will be added to this from the Soviet Union. This will allow normal distribution of television sets to the population.

Color television sets are currently being sold in more than 20 specialized stores. The sale of this equipment will be extended to 61 establishments until the distribution of these sets is available in all municipalities throughout the country.

'Antisocial Individuals' Sentenced in Alquizar

FL0202030089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0011 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Fourteen antisocial individuals from Arroyo Naranjo and Santiago de las Vegas, Havana have been sentenced by the Alquizar People's Tribunal after they were found guilty of disturbing the peace in that Havana locality. They were given several different sentences, 1 year of loss of freedom among them.

I should note, my friends, that according to the report the 14 antisocial individuals threw blocks, rocks, and bottles at La Vizcaina Cafeteria located in Alquizar Municipality. This happened around midnight on Saturday, 28 January.

The damages caused to the premises and food products amounted to 534 pesos. Article 374 of the Penal Procedure Law had to be applied because of the terrible behavior shown by the defendants during the trial. The article establishes that the defendants have to serve their sentences immediately because of their threat to society. This sanction was applied to five of them. They were turned over to the National Revolutionary Police unit in Alquizar.

Only one worker of La Vizcaina Cafeteria was injured during the public disorder and attack on social property.

Family Members Sentenced for Disorderly Conduct

FL0202034189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0036 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] An unprecedented event took place at the penal room of the Municipal Tribunal in Villa Trinitaria, Sancti Spiritus Province. It has caused a large stir among the population. A hearing against citizens Juan Bautista Quezada Barrizonte and Roque Arostica Barrizonte had concluded. They had been charged with contempt of court and resisting arrest. Another hearing for the same charges against the first defendant was going to begin. This is when he and Roque Arostica Barrizonte stood up and hurled extremely rude words at the tribunal and prosecutor. The relatives who were present began a squabble against them and PNR [National Revolutionary Police] agents went to reestablish order. Finally, they were submitted to obedience through established methods and were taken to the Villa Trinitaria's PNR unit.

The hearing was held again only 25 hours and 40 minutes after the disturbance took place at Villa Trinitaria's Municipal Tribunal. Juana and Reynosa Barrizonte Guevara were sentenced to 1 year of loss of freedom. Roque Arostica Barrizonte, Tellez de Jesus, Omar and Juan Bautista Quezada Barrizonte were given the maximum sentence the law establishes for these cases. Each one of the defendants was sentenced to 3 years of loss of freedom. They were all detained immediately without prejudicing the guarantees granted to them by law of appealing the imposed sentenced if they wish to do so.

Barbados

Creation of National Democratic Party Announced

FL0102235289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 1, CANA—Four Barbados Government parliamentary backbenchers on Wednesday resigned from the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) and an hour later announced the formation of a new political grouping.

Former Finance Minister Dr Richie Haynes, who resigned his cabinet post in a row with Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford in August 1987, summoned the press to his home to announce that he and three other ex-DLP "dissidents" had formed the National Democratic Party (NDP).

In the long-expected announcement, Haynes said the three other founder-members of the NDP are businessman Peter Miller, insurance adjuster Edgar Bourne and lawyer Richard Byer.

Haynes, a physician-specialist, read a prepared statement signed by the four, which said that they had shared a "disillusionment engendered by men (in the DLP) who have no regard for the commitment made to the electorate of Barbados."

This was a reference to what he said was the DLP's deviation from the manifesto policies which won the party the government in a historic 24-3 landslide in 1986 general elections.

Dr Haynes, with four NDP seats in Parliament to the three of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP), is expected to replace prominent lawyer and ex-Attorney General Henry Forde as parliamentary leader of the opposition.

Forde, who underwent surgery today, was not immediately available for comment.

Haynes gave the aims and objects of the NDP as:

To promote a just and caring society;

To foster social cohesion, neighbourliness and mutuality among all sections of the community;

To defend the social, economic and political rights of all Barbadians;

To protect the poor, the young, the old and the disadvantaged;

To ensure efficiency, integrity and accountability in the management of public affairs;

To develop a profound symbiosis between the public and private sectors of the economy;

To secure continual improvement in the standard of living of all Barbadians and

To strive for deeper integration among Caribbean peoples and for peace among the nations of the world.

The timing of the NDP's "foundation meeting": Is yet to be announced if the party will name candidates "of interest" for the 27 parliamentary constituencies in due course. [sentence as received]

Prime Minister Sandiford, who is currently in Venezuela, on Tuesday said the DLP was willing to do without the so-called dissidents.

"Those [words indistinct] severely criticised Sandiford's 1988/89 budget as an abrogation of the election-winning manifesto pledges made by the DLP in 1986.

The DLP, whose complement in the 27-member House of Assembly has been reduced to 20, declined early comment on today's developments, saying it was evaluating the situation.

Acting leader of the BLP, David Simmonds, said he expected Haynes to be named opposition leader in keeping with the relevant provision in the Constitution. He said however that the public could look forward to an "intensification" of the constribution of the BLP and the expanded opposition. The BLP, in a prepared statement, said that "sitting in opposition as a centre of opposition will not be a new experience" for the party, the situation having arisen before in 1961. The party predicted that "in the same way as Barbadians have paid a handsome price by way of financial impositions since the heady days of 1986, in the same way they shall pay a price by way of political instability after February 1, 1989."

Haiti

Dominican Republic Rejects Romain Extradition

FL0202132289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] The Dominican Republic has rejected a request by Haiti to extradite former Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain. The Haitian Government submitted the extradition request on Monday but the Dominican Republic sent it back saying the document was incomplete because of two reasons: First, it had not been certified by the Dominican Consulate in Port-au-Prince, and second, it was presented in French and needed to be translated into Spanish before it could be officially accepted.

Government Wants Bodies of Accident Victims

FL0102124289 Bonaire Trans World Service in English 1130 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Haiti's Government has asked the Dominican Republic to return the bodies of 46 sugarcane cutters who were killed last Friday in a truck accident. Unfortunately, the bodies have already been buried by the Dominican Government when they could not be identified. Thirty-six other workers were injured in the accident, which took place when the truck carrying about 100 workers to canefields in the Dominican Republic missed a curve and rolled down a cliff.

Memorandum on Alleged Coup Plot, Reaction Cited

FL0202000689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] [Announcer] Information Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre, who would like to be more of a monarchist than the monarch and is more in favor of the military government than the head of the military government, has invited the general and the Haitian Armed Forces to go and increase pressure and repression against the population in the central plateau—on the pretext that there is a plot being set up to overthrow the military government.

Here is a memorandum Mr Saint-Pierre sent General Prosper Avril on this matter:

[Second announcer] Information Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre, in a document entitled "A Second Analysis of the Situation During the Week of 9-14 January 1989" that he sent Haiti's president last 13 January,

discusses what he terms the hot-as-a-fire situation in the central plateau. The information minister even resembles the Duvalierist interior ministers when he recommends that the Army set up the repressive machine and monitor and hold in check the activities of the peasants in the country, particularly in the central plateau.

In the minister's opinion, the situation in the central plateau is so serious that the Army should send reinforcements to Hinche and Gen Avril should send spies who are effective and loyal to Gen Avril to the Hinche, Savannette, Belladere, Mirebalais, and Thomassique areas (?over the) 14 January (?weekend). Saint-Pierre says that the Papaye Peasants Movement [MPP], with Chavannes Jean-Baptiste at its head, is conspiring all over the central plateau to overthrow the government. According to the memorandum, the heads of the MPP are trying to get the peasants to rebel so that the Avril government will be obliged to crush this rebellion heavy-handedly and perhaps through a bloodbath.

The information minister informs President Avril that this movement is supported by the National Concerted Action Front [FNC], the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH], the Charlemagne Peralte [National Liberation] Front [FCPLN], and the grassroots parishes. The information minister thinks the uprising might first occur in Savannette because Savannette is already divided, with the poor families on one side and the big landowners on the other. According to the document, it is a green-eyed mulatto priest who leads the grass roots parishes, Father Jean Pierre-Louis, who is at the head of the movement.

The information minister says that it has been reported that all conditions have been met for the movement to (?break out) at the end of January—in any case, most likely before 7 February 1989.

The document says that the FNC sent (Idli Cameau) to Savannette to serve as a liaison between Savannette and Mirebalais and to make contact with (Luc Occinvil), an FNC member who is also an Agriculture Ministry employee, and (Pierre Andre Prevot), an FNC member who is also justice of the peace in Savannette. Saint-Pierre says in his document that the MPP has received big bucks from certain Belgian organizations to involve the peasants in politics. The MPP has also allied with the PUCH and the FNC.

According to the FNC's plan, they would distribute money to the groups and to voodoo priests to celebrate Epiphany [6 January, observed as a church festival in commemoration of the coming of the Magi and also a voodoo festival]. The document says it is believed that the purpose of this is to attract the peasants and at the same time stir up the voodoo centers of the Artibonite against the government. The document recalls that the FNC, the FCPLN, and the PUCH are pushing the idea of agrarian reform and armed occupation of the towns by the peasants. The information minister quotes Mr Victor Benoit, whom the document says (?has expressed) the wish to see the peasants of the Artibonite leave their lands in order to one day trash the town of Gonaives.

Minister Saint-Pierre also makes certain recommendations in this document. He thinks that it is very important for the Army to set up monitoring posts at the entrances to our provincial towns to identify, through their drivers licenses, everyone who for one reason or another travels to these towns. These people's names should be listed on a sheet of paper daily, and this list should be sent, every 2 days, to a central information office—a kind of secret service—so that the lists could be analyzed and sent to President Avril.

The minister says it might be difficult to set up this spy and informer service, particularly regarding the daily lists of people. However, it is very important that for the next 4-8 weeks people be given the impression that the government is monitoring closely, (?is tightening the screws on), everyone traveling around inside Haiti—even if it has to slow traffic along the national highways down to do it.

The information minister says it is very important for the Army to send reinforcements to Hinche and to make the commanding officer of the military department of Hinche see clearly what is going on right under his nose without his being aware of it—and (?for him to) see the need for the Army to infiltrate spies into all groups so as to know what they are up to.

In this memo, the information minister writes: The Ministry of Interior and National Defense should rapidly send to President Avril a (?file) providing information on all magistrates and members of city halls in the central plateau. According to this document, in the coming days it is also important for the authorities in Port-au-Prince to carefully screen all the people they intend to appoint in these areas so that the coffee grounds will not get into the cup with the coffee—so as to (?avoid being had) by the adversaries of the government.

The Education Ministry must create clubs and associations in order to assemble forces and also to place young men and women under control. The Education Ministry should encourage sports activities and cultural activities. The minister writes: It would be nice if we could even spend some money for this.

The Ministry of Information, from which the document came, envisions rapidly spreading all over the central plateau a number of spy-informers, so that the president of the military government can know what is going on all the time throughout the area. The Ministry of Information writes: To do a good job this requires substantial means.

Finally, the information (?minister) writes that Gen Avril should order military authorities at the border to monitor comings and goings along the border. The

document intimates that, according to a number of reports that they have been unable to verify, the Haitian Communist Party and the Dominican Communist Party are going to hold discussions to reach an agreement on the matter of the border towns of the central plateau.

This memorandum that the Information Ministry submitted to Gen Avril on 13 January was the main topic of discussion at a meeting held last 20 January at the Army General Headquarters; and 1 week later, the government decided to send a delegation made up of an Army officer and representatives of several other ministries to see—say a number of official sources—what the complaints of the population of the central plateau are.

Observers point out that Information Minister Saint-Pierre is acting like one of the super-ministers, like one of the ministers of state under Duvalier, making a number of recommendations to be carried out by the Interior Ministry, Education Ministry, and Army.

Also being asked is this question: What is the exact role of the Ministry of Information in a poor country like Haiti, considering the number of employees dependent on this ministry? At a time when Public Works Minister Franck Paultre is complaining that there is no money with which to repair the bridges, where is the government going to get the money to pay spies and the Army to trample and kill the poor peasants who are [words indistinct] in order to pay taxes—taxes which don't even do them any good?

Another question being asked: Is the Ministry of Information responsible for spying for the government? Not too long ago, an employee of that ministry was trying to obtain a list of the names of all correspondents of all radios in Haiti. What for? They said it was for their files.

The question being asked is this: Why is the Ministry of Information concerning itself with the organization of this espionage service when this same ministry announced last Monday that President Avril had sat down and talked with Electricite d'Haiti [EDH] officials about the EDH's $22-million-per-month deficit? What does the Information Ministry have to say about the $1 million debt that Radio-Television d'Haiti [name as heard] owes? What does it have to say about all the relay stations that have been out of order for some time now? What does it have to say about all the Radio Nationale relays that it has never been able to set up? They were supposed to have been set up several years ago.

If this memorandum is applied, it will take us right back to the darkest days of Duvalierism, with all the monitoring of citizens' travel, freedom of speech, and freedom to hold meetings and to organize—to say nothing of imprisonment, exile, and death upon being denounced as being a communist or a rebel! This memorandum contains [words indistinct] a series of measures that a fascist government might adopt. Does the Avril government intend to remain for life? The future will provide an answer to this question.

[First Announcer] Well, after seeing this big important document—this cynical, distressing document sent to Gen Avril by Mr Saint-Pierre, asking Gen Avril to have the Armed Forces increase the repression of the peasants, who are already being repressed by the section chiefs in different parts of Haiti, particularly in the central plateau—many people are saying: There you have it! Just look at the kind of people, the kind of leaders they have chosen to lead Haiti.

Delegation Leaves for Venezuelan Inauguration

FL0102211989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] A government delegation that includes Haitian Foreign Minister Serges Elie Charles and interim Army Commander in Chief General [Herard] Abraham is leaving Port-au-Prince today for Caracas, Venezuela to attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez. The Venezuelan president-elect's inauguration will also be attended by a delegation of Haitian political figures invited by the ruling Venezuelan Christian Democratic Party [as heard]. This delegation is made up of Rene Theodore, Marc Bazin, Louis Dejoie, Serges Gilles, Arnold Antonin, and Moyse Senatus. This delegation is leaving Port-au-Prince for Caracas shortly, at 1300 today.

Memorandum on Government Forum Plans Issued

FL0102194989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Diverse political, civic, and union figures and organizations and the president of the military government met yesterday from noon to 1600 in connection with the electoral forum. They discussed the ways and means of the 9 February forum—how they were going to hold it, what was going to be discussed, and so forth—and the creation of an electoral council. [passage omitted]

This delegation has issued a memorandum on what was discussed. Regarding the forum, they said it would first concern itself with the creation of this electoral institution, and that it would last 2 or 3 days at the most. There will be a number of work sessions around a table. Speeches and discussion will be limited and there will be a press release at the end of the forum on what was discussed at (?these work sessions). Thus, they are (?at present sitting down to decide what will be discussed).

The forum will not be a place where decisions are made but rather a place where recommendations will be made. The sessions are going to be coordinated by the minister of justice, and the forum will be open to the press, according to the memorandum.

However, the memo adds, some people will not be able to participate in this forum: all those whom the Provisional Electoral Council and the Court of Cassation decided not to allow to participate in the 29 November elections. These people will not be allowed to participate in the forum. Neither will those who, during the election period, made public threats in the press or over television against the public peace and the security of citizens.

This memo, issued after the meeting that was just held with General Prosper Avril, also talks about the creation of the electoral institution. They say they are going to create an electoral institution that will be called the Permanent Electoral Council. This Permanent Electoral Council is an independent, (?public) institution with responsibility for organizing elections. In the absence of the institutional framework provided for under Title VI of the Constitution of 1987, the dispositions of Articles 289 and 289.2 will be applied to form a provisional electoral council. This provisional electoral council's mission will come to an end when all the electoral operations stipulated in the electoral law have been accomplished. During the interim period before a new council is formed, everyday matters (?and) other decisions will be handled by a member of the provisional electoral council who will have been chosen by his colleagues.

The Justice Ministry is the government administrative authority in charge of relations with the electoral institution.

Within 8 days of this forum, the government will publish the decree on the creation of the electoral council, as discussed in Article 289. Within a reasonable length of time after the formation of the provisional electoral council, the government is to publish the organic law that discusses the manner of organization and operations of the electoral institution. This organic law will be prepared by the government and the members of the provisional electoral council working together. After the publication of the organic law, the government will publish the electoral law that the provisional electoral council is going to prepare, working together with the government and the principal political and civic sectors concerned.

Thus, as we said, this is a memorandum that was issued following yesterday's meeting with General Prosper Avril in connection with the matter of the forum scheduled for 9 February 1989.

However, the memorandum also mentions other topics touched on during yesterday's meeting. They say they also talked about the problems of the section chiefs, the high cost of living, and the need for reforms in the court system. Also, if this forum is a success, other such forums might be held to discuss with the government a number of matters such as those just mentioned, as well as any other problems that concern the nation in general. [passage omitted]

There is much controversy in Haiti over the holding of this 9 February forum.

Also, various people's organizations have gotten together and decided to hold another forum 5-7 February. Meanwhile, there has already been a strike call issued—by Eddy Volel of the RDC [Christian Democratic Assembly's], who feels that the forum scheduled for 9 February 1989 is quite simply a declaration of war against the Haitian people.

Political Group Supports Forum

FL0102193889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] In a resolution adopted at the end of a seminar on the administration of democracy [gestyon demokratik] held last 29 January, the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces discussed, on the one hand, the spirit of dialogue and openness shown by the military government and, on the other hand, the many exactions being committed throughout Haiti by certain soldiers and rural section chiefs—such as the recent exaction that occurred on 27 January, when soldiers from the Leopards Corps mistreated workers who were peacefully demanding their rights in front of the Social Affairs Ministry office on Delmas Road.

Also, the people signing this resolution set forth their position on the case of our compatriots in the Dominican Republic, particularly those who died or were hurt in the serious accident that occurred in the Dominican Republic on the night of 26 January.

The seminar participants also discussed the current climate of insecurity in Haiti. In this connection, they called to mind Article 268 of the Constitution in connection with the defense of citizens, when citizens' rights are threatened by bandits. [Article 268-1 says: Every citizen has the right to armed self-defense, within the bounds of his domicile, but has no right to bear arms without expressed, well-founded authorization from the chief of police.]

(?With a view to) concerted action and dialogue with the government, the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces supports the forum that is to be held next 9 February and intends to participate normally in the forum.

The Liaison Committee feels it is necessary for everyone who participated in the 29 November 1987 massacre and everyone affected by Article 291 of the Constitution to be set aside.

Thus, these people should not participate in the 9 February 1989 forum [says the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces].

PANPRA Calls for Unity, Vigilance Brigades

FL0102211489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The PANPRA [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] coordinating commmittee for western Haiti, after sitting and (?analyzing) and reflecting upon the policy being carried out in Haiti today, points out that it sees before it a two-faced government that makes promises and more promises; insecurity all over Port-au-Prince, particularly in the popular neighborhoods and in the environs of the capital; a series of searches that are just bluffs to irritate honest citizens without ever giving criminals cause for concern; unceasing repression of small peasant farmers, a repression that is being carried out steadfastly by the section chiefs; unceasing repression of factory workers, who are fired for the slightest reason, after the macoute military has finished trampling them; and a bunch of coup d'etat rumors that prevent people from thinking—as if the government were circulating rumors in order to demobilize the population.

PANPRA's coordinating committee for western Haiti also notices a democratic sector that has lost its footing, which is being thoroughly undermined by division. There is division within the Church, among the union federations, among political organizations, and among political parties and people's movements—division, division, all the way down the line!

In view of these many problems, PANPRA's coordinating committee for western Haiti asks a number of questions. It asks General Avril what he has done with all the notes he has taken during the meetings he has already had with the political leaders and what he has done with all the memorandums that the political organizations have already submitted to him.

PANPRA's coordinating committee for western Haiti asks all democratic sector militants what they are doing, together, with a view to making sure that this current government is Haiti's last military government. It asks all democrats in Haiti—especially those sitting in Port-au-Prince—when they are going to realize that quarreling and bickering are not going to lead anywhere, that the only result of such quarreling and bickering is going to be a weakening of the people's struggle and a strengthening of the macoute forces and the Avril government.

In view of all this division, PANPRA's coordinating committee for western Haiti asks all democrats in Haiti regardless of their ideology to (?get together and) set up an action plan with a view to furthering the demands of the Haitian masses.

Furthermore, in view of the current insecurity, they ask the people of Port-au-Prince to again set up the vigilance brigades so that they can defend themselves, because the police are incapable of doing their job.

This press release is signed by the PANPRA's coordinating committee for western Haiti.

KONAKOM Defines Political Positions

FL0102210089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Today, 31 January, is the 2d anniversary of KONAKOM [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements], and on this occasion KONAKOM redefines its line. KONAKOM says: KONAKOM's is a peaceful line, based on the use of legal forms of struggle with a view to establishing in Haiti a new government by means of democratic elections.

In the eyes of the 900 delegates to this congress, this line should lead, in the middle or long run, to the establishment of a democratic, pluralistic regime capable of defending the national interests and guaranteeing social justice for the majority of the nation's citizens.

Despite the difficulties encountered in applying this line, acknowledges KONAKOM, the committee's secretariat points out that this line has permitted the organization to gain strength. On the internal level, this strengthening has translated into a certain amount of flexibility, which the organization has exhibited and which permitted it to traverse without heavy losses the period of dictatorship under the CNG [National Government Council], particularly the period between December 1987 to September 1988, during which KONAKOM was targeted by the repressive forces as one of the organizations to be destroyed.

Also on the internal level, this strengthening has (?lead to) the credibility KONAKOM enjoys in several parts of Haiti, despite a press and political campaign waged against it for a long period of time by the CNG and its (?supporters), KONAKOM says.

The organization's readiness to form useful alliances with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the democratic camp is still another (?sign) of this strengthening.

According to KONAKOM, on the external level this strengthening is expressed by the campaign waged together with friends [kamarad] from the diaspora (?and) with democratic parties worldwide, particularly the members of the Socialist International, with a view to disenclosing [desenclaver] the Haitian people's struggle for democracy and arranging functional international alliances.

KONAKOM reveals that during the 2 years of its existence, because of its youth, it has of course made mistakes. According to KONAKOM, the main ones appear to be having underestimated the macoute forces' capacity for violence prior to 29 November 1987 and a lack of contact with the national portion of the bourgeoisie, which is a victim of corruption and interested in the emergence of a democratic society, the only kind of society capable of guaranteeing this bourgeoisie's investments within the context of an expanded national market.

It is taking into account the positive and negative experiences accumulated during the application of its line that KONAKOM explains to its members and the gathering of the democrats that it is determined to continue the peaceful struggle in a responsible manner with a view to defending the Constitution of 29 March 1987; that it wishes to continue to work to strengthen the unity of the democratic camp; and that it is willing, if need be, to transform itself into a political party in order to continue to wage the battle, with a view to occupying, at a moment dictated by history, spaces of power [des espaces de pouvoir] within the framework of a regime that is pluralistic and within the framework of a rule of law.

This is a press release issued by KONAKOM on the occasion of its 2d anniversary, which is today.

Jamaica

Seaga, Manley To Miss Perez Inauguration

FL0102183989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1738 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 1, CANA—Election campaigning is keeping Jamaica's political leaders away from Thursday's inauguration of Venezuelan president, Carlos Andres Perez, aides here said.

The Foreign Ministry confirmed that Jamaica will be represented at the Caracas ceremony by its ambassador to Venezuela, Stafford Neil, while Prime Minister Edward Seaga stays at home for the general election here in eight days time.

Opposition leader, Michael Manley, a close colleague and personal friend of Perez, is sending Dudley Thompson, a former chairman of his People's National Party [PNP] and a one-time foreign minister to the inauguration, party officials said. "Mr Manley would love to have gone for the inauguration, but the situation here requires that he be at home," an aide said.

Manley, like Perez, is a vice president of Socialist International, the grouping of socialist and social democratic parties, and had developed close cooperation between their countries when they held office in the 1970's.

Manley, if he wins the February 9 election here, is likely to see Perez as a close ally in the region.

Election Violence in Spanish Town Reported

FL0102225789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 1, CANA—Rival political supporters hurled bottles and stones at each other in Jamaica's former capital of Spanish Town Wednesday in violence ignited by the killing of two women in the town Tuesday night, witnesses said.

Police in Spanish Town, 14 miles west of Kingston, reported no injuries from Wednesday's fracas, but said the atmosphere in the town was tense. The Police Information Centre [PIC] said that no motive had yet been determined for the gunslaying of the two women in separate incidents, but residents said that the victims supported different political parties, and linked their murders and Wednesday's violence to this.

The ruling Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] and the opposition People's National Party [PNP] contest general elections here on February 9.

According to the PIC, Rosalie Dickson, 29, was shot by a lone gunmen while she and other women were sitting under a tree in the St Johns area of the town at about 11:30 pm. The other women escaped unharmed. In the other incident, a 45-year-old woman was shot dead when gunmen kicked down the door to her home and opened fire. Other family members escaped.

St John's Road residents demonstrated and blocked the street Wednesday. Police cleared the roads and have been maintaining a strong presence in the town.

Spanish Town and a few other areas in the parish of St Catherine have been flashpoints for political violence in the election campaign, despite attempts for peace by the parties.

Last August Jamaica Labour Party leader, Prime Minister Edward Seaga and his People's National Party counterpart, Michael Manley, signed an accord on a political code of conduct aimed at reducing tensions and political violence.

Despite some skirmishes and the charges and countercharges by the parties, most independent observers say that the peace accord has played a significant role in reducing the level of violence from 1980 when hundreds died in the campaign for the last contested general election here.

The PNP boycotted the general election of December 1983.

Cardenist Front Followers Attack Charapan Leader
PA3101210289 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 2025 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The Michoacan State Attorney General's Office has established that followers of the Cardenist Front have wounded Charapan Municipal President Jesus Galindo Jeronimo and killed his daughter, Maria Del Refugio Rosas.

In addition, the Michoacan Attorney General's Office also established that the person who shot Galindo Jeronimo is Miguel Hernandez, who claims to be the moral municipal president of Charapan and who also heads the group of followers of the Cardenist Front in Charapan. That group is still presently occupying the Charapan Municipal Palace.

A few minutes ago, Michoacan Governor Genovevo Samudio asserted that the law will be applied to the letter in Michoacan. The Michoacan State Congress is currently studying the Charapan Municipality situation.

According to medical reports, Galindo Jeronimo, who was wounded last night, remains in serious condition at an Uruapan hospital. Mexican Attorney General's Office personnel and personnel from the Michoacan Attorney General's Office are investigating the incident to assess responsibilities.

Ambassador Vows To Increase Ties With Cuba
PA0102192389 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 Jan 89 p 4

[Text] Raul Castellanos Jimenez, the new Mexican ambassador to Cuba, yesterday said that Mexico, by worrying about Cuba, is protecting itself from hegemonic policies, regardless of their origin. Castellanos Jimenez said Mexico's interest in Cuba is not casual and is prompted by "the strategic situations of the two countries within the international sphere and the process of Latin American integration started by the Caribbean region."

During a meeting with the Permanent Commission's Third Working Commission [as published], headed by Senator Jesus Rodriguez y Rodriguez, Castellanos Jimenez vowed to increase the communication, economic, political, commercial, and cultural ties between the two countries.

*** Commentary Reflects on Role of Opposition**
32480057 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Dec 88 pp 7-A, 8-A

[Adrian Lajous commentary: "The Role of the Opposition: How Far Should It Go?"]

[Text] One of the most aggressive deputies in the opposition has been Jorge Martinez Almaraz of the Democratic Current. Not only has he participated in physical attacks on the tribune, but he was also the first to interrupt President De la Madrid in an attempt to challenge him on the day of his final report and the only one to rebuke President Salinas when he took office. So that television viewers may identify him, I would say that he is quite tall, possibly 1.90 meters, bald, with a heavy beard, and stocky though not fat.

To my surprise, I learned a few days after the report that Martinez Almaraz and I are rather close relatives. They used to call his father, Pedro Martinez, whom I did know, "Pedro and a half," because he was about 2 meters tall. He was my mother's first or second cousin—probably both, because her surname was Martinez y Martinez, her parents were cousins, and, besides, in Candela, Coahuila, all those named Martinez are related.

My first reaction upon learning that it was my first cousin who had shown a lack of respect at the presidential inauguration was: How far my poor family has fallen! But after thinking it over, I reached the conclusion that this newly discovered relative is merely doing his duty as an opposition fighter, and the same holds true of all those opposed to the government.

Each of Cardenas' and Clouthier's respective supporters is convinced that his candidate won, and that it was through fraud that their victory was infringed upon. Obviously, both factions cannot be correct, and perhaps neither is. I began by presuming that there was, indeed, some fraud, but not in a degree sufficient to change the ranking of the three after the voting. But later more reports reached me, whether false or true, which made me have doubts. Finally, I concluded that I neither knew nor would I find out what really happened. I'm afraid that neither the candidates nor the election officials themselves know either. There were too many cooks with spoons in that broth.

If I, a supporter of the new president, have doubts about who won the most votes, what can be said of those who believe—because they want to believe it—that Cardenas or Clouthier won, depending on which one was their candidate? The conviction of having won is strengthening the supporters, who have joined together to give each other mutual encouragement. Once they are convinced and then have it reaffirmed, it must be very frustrating for them to see the "bad guys" in power. This makes the "good guys" totally bad.

But the problem goes further. The members of the opposition are not only hot-headed and driven by rage, but they are also motivated by a deliberate tactic causing them to engage in constant turmoil. What other recourse do they have? Accepting the situation and waiting for the next elections would only lead to a cooling of their support and the dispersal of their parties.

The constant verbal attacks and occasional physical action are keeping the opposition in force, creating doubts in the country and abroad regarding the legitimacy of the regime; within certain limits, they have the government on the defensive. Anyone who merely denies or gives explanations sounds hollow. Anyone who accuses gains adherents or, at least, creates doubts.

Besieged by the constant aggression, and with an adverse public opinion due to other reasons, the government has found itself forced to give in. It has been making concessions that it would not even have considered previously. It has halted initiatives that it wanted to adopt. It has varied its programs. In short, it has curtailed its own power.

Under these circumstances, it is obvious that the constant attacks by my cousin and his companions on the left and right are bringing results that are partially effective and possible to gauge. In this case, the action has justified itself by its results.

But there is a trade-off. The people dislike the constant upheaval. They eventually tire of the continuous turmoil and, hence, of those causing the turmoil. The latter are beginning to be viewed as negative elements and, for all practical purposes, as nihilists. They will end up being considered futile opponents upsetting order just for the sake of it.

Has that time come already, or are there still more people hailing the opposition rather than those desirous of building a government that will attempt to carry the country forward? I have no way of knowing, but I suspect that there are still many sympathizing with those who are keeping the government under constant pressure, even though they themselves will be changing their opinion sooner or later. The people must eventually decide in favor of those striving to surmount our most urgent problems, and not those who only want to make the sick world more just.

Over the medium term, the only thing that could save the opposition would be enormous mistakes on the part of the government, or that the economy bursts due to natural causes: a dismal hope for any Mexican.

While the economic situation is starting to be resolved, and public opinion is changing, I must say that, although I disagree with his ideas, I believe that my new found relative and his counterparts at both ends of the political spectrum are playing the role that is incumbent on them. They are members of an opposition thwarted by an antidemocratic, anachronistic system. They are doing the only thing they can do.

Costa Rica

Plane Hijacker Turned Over to Authorities

PA3101195289 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1840 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Report by Shirley Gutierrez]

[Text] The man who hijacked an Avianca [as heard] Boeing-727 airliner enroute between San Andres and Medellin, Colombia with 116 passengers this morning was turned over to members of the Public Security Ministry's Intelligence and Security Directorate as soon as the plane landed at Juan Santamaria Airport.

Local authorities had been alerted to the possibility that the hijacked plane was heading toward Costa Rica. The aircraft landed at 1050 today. According to available reports, the hijacker, who held a container with gasoline, spurted some of this gasoline on one of the passengers and threatened to set him on fire. With this threat, the hijacker succeeded in forcing the crew to head for Costa Rica.

A source at Omar Torrijos Airport in Panama said the pilot requested landing instructions on the hijacker's orders but that the hijacker apparently changed his mind and ordered the pilot to fly to Costa Rica instead.

Costa Rican Public Security Minister Hernan Garron and Harry Barrantes, director of the immediate action unit, went to the airport at about 0900 as soon as they learned of the likely landing in Costa Rica of the hijacked plane. In addition, members of the 1st, 2d, and 5th garrisons, special antiriot policemen of Heredia and Alajuela headquarters, and even members of the radio patrol directorate went to the airport.

According to Balbino Hernandez, advisor to the security minister, the emergency plan the Security Ministry had prepared a long time ago was fully implemented to avoid further trouble at the airport so all the passengers could be safely released.

Air traffic had to be suspended, including one Lacsa and one Taca flight. The passengers of this plane are safe. The pilot, Colombian citizen Jaime Perez, the only person who has been identified, has said the plane will soon fly back to Colombia. An anonymous phone caller said the hijacker intended to demand that several political prisoners accused of drug trafficking in Costa Rica be released.

Judging by this call, there appears to be a connection between recent drug trafficking problems in Costa Rica and the Colombian drug traffickers. Pertinent consultations are being made with Colombian authorities to fully identify the hijacker.

Hijacker To Be Deported

PA0102233989 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Albin Anthony Siu Moses—the Nicaraguan who yesterday hijacked a Colombian ACES Boeing plane and was the center of attention of the crew members and passengers while he planned how to leave Colombian territory—is being held by the Intelligence and Security Directorate, DIC.

DIC Director Carlos Arturo Arce said Siu Moses is being interrogated and undergoing other routine procedures and will later be deported to Colombia. Siu Moses will presumably have to answer charges to be brought by the Colombian authorities for terrorism.

Spanish Minister on EC-Latin America Ties

LD0102063089 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] [Announcer] Ibero-America, Europe, and Central America are the focus of the foreign policy of Spain, which holds the EC presidency. Central America not only needs political support, but also needs economic support to lighten the heavy burden of external debt. On behalf of the Twelve, the Spanish foreign minister has called for a new strategy based on growth in order to solve these problems. Here is a report from Juan Luis Diaz Prat in San Jose, Costa Rica.

[Diaz Prat] Support for freedom and democracy and the promotion of economic growth are the EC's objectives in Latin America, which were reiterated to the Ninth Europe-Latin America Interparliamentary Conference—which is being held in San Jose—by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, in his capacity as EC representative.

[Begin Fernandez-Ordonez recording] In July 1987 we approved a document entitled "New EEC Orientations in Relations With Latin America." This document is still not fully satisfactory, but it does consolidate the intention to develop relations which are not strictly confined to political dialogue. I would like to recall here what I said recently to the European Parliament. The clear commitment to political support for democracy in Latin America and the resolution of the conflict in Central America—this commitment has been given by the EC—is not reflected by the modest level of our economic support. Therefore, we have to continue working and we will do so with the very valuable support of the European Parliament, to which we have to attribute a good number of the successes achieved up to now in our efforts toward more solid and more substantial relations. [end recording]

El Salvador

FMLN on Suspension of U.S. Personnel Attacks

PA0102195189 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Feb 89

[FMLN General Command communique read by unidentified "rebel spokesman," dated 30 January; no place given—recorded]

[Text] The FMLN's General Command, taking into account the positive acceptance that our peace proposal has had in several sectors of U.S. society, and hopeful of a change in U.S. policy toward our country with the new U.S. Administration, has decided to suspend military attacks against U.S. personnel, and U.S. military, civilian, and diplomatic installations in our country.

This does not include advisers in Salvadoran Army brigades and garrisons, or personnel moving with Salvadoran troops by land or air.

This measure takes effect when this communique is published. We therefore call upon all our men to fully comply. With this gesture, we reaffirm our affection for the people of the United States, where thousands of Salvadorans live, and our hope that our fatherland may one day have honorable, dignified, and independent relations with a U.S. Government that respects those relations.

[Signed] Commanders Joaquin Villalobos, Shafik Handal, Roberto Roca, Leonel Gonzalez, and German Cienfuegos

[(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 2349 GMT on 1 February and (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0013 GMT on 2 February broadcast above FMLN communique. These versions have been compared with the San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU version and found to be identical.]

Further on Suspension of Attack

PA0102185689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1832 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The FMLN General Command today announced that it will suspend all military attacks on U.S. personnel and U.S. military, civilian, and diplomatic installations in El Salvador.

The guerrilla organization announced the new decision in a communique, which was read to a radio station by the FMLN's press office in Mexico City, and explained that the decision was adopted as a result of "the positive attitude from various sectors in the United States toward the FMLN's new political proposal to attain peace."

The guerrilla organization refers to its offer to abide by the Salvadoran electoral results, provided the elections are postponed from March to September.

The announcement about the suspension of all actions against U.S. personnel and installations occurs 48 hours before U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's arrival in El Salvador.

FMLN Warns Honduras on Troop 'Coordination'

PA3101123589 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] There continues to be coordination between Honduran and Salvadoran troops in the border area near Morazan. A unit made up of 50 soldiers of the Salvadoran puppet army has been based for several days now in Honduran territory, specifically in Las Flores in the area bordering Morazan. From their base in Honduran territory, these puppet soldiers enter (El Robledero), San Fernando jurisdiction, [words indistinct] to the population.

These units will be attacked when they enter Salvadoran territory. As for now, we are reminding the Honduran Government that it should not participate in any operations with Salvadoran units, as these are part of the U.S. war plans.

Officer Says Nicaragua Supplying FMLN Weapons

PA0102234189 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 Jan 89 pp 3, 42

[Text] In an underground hideout southeast of La Union, Military Detachment No 3, troops yesterday found Soviet-made weapons that came from Nicaragua for the guerrillas in El Salvador.

The troops, led by Colonel Francisco Helena Fuentes, uncovered the underground hideout in Verde Beach, El Zompopero Canton, Conchagua Jurisdiction.

When they dug into the ground, they found 73 87-mm mortar grenades and 20 grenades for 55-mm recoiless launchers, all Soviet-made.

"This is evidence of something several national and international organizations do not want to admit: Nicaragua, as a communist country, is an ally of the FMLN-FDR and is supplying weapons to the guerrillas in El Salvador," Col Helena Fuentes said.

According to the military officer, the weapons were found very close to the coast, in a mountain area where no one lives. "We are going to continue carefully checking the area to find more hideouts or terrorist redoubts," the officer added.

In conclusion, he said efforts are being made to prevent the infiltration of Nicaraguan communists into the country, because this is one of the most serious problems we have. Some 15-20 Nicaraguans arrive in La Union daily, claiming they are fleeing from the Sandinist regime. They are turned over to the various humanitarian organizations; as of that moment, there is no control over them, he concluded.

FMLN Member on Army Participation in Elections
AU0102140289 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 1 Feb 89 p 2

[Interview with Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Politico-Diplomatic Commission, by Stephan Hebel: "Elections Instead of Weapons?"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Hebel] Do you not think that it is an illusion to believe that the Army will withdraw to the barracks during an election process?

[Martinez] This may seem to be a dream, an illusion. However, the situation in El Salvador is becoming worse and worse. And no alternative has turned up to put an end to the conflict. Our initiative has to develop into the beginning of a negotiation process, which can culminate in an election process. Therefore, if all the others except for the Army agree, and if the new U.S. Government is one of those who agree, we believe that this will be the course to change the Army's totally negative attitude toward our political initiative.

[Hebel] If the left lost the elections, according to the conditions of your plan, what would the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] do?

[Martinez] We made our proposal because we have already taken this possibility into account. However, the proposal is based on the fact that under really democratic conditions we and the "Democratic Convergence" (leftist party alliance—the editors) will have the political majority in a process that really provides the opportunity to break through the barrier of terror of the huge majority of the population, who today is afraid to say what they think.

[Hebel] The plan does not say anything about the end of the armed struggle. Would the FMLN not have to lay down its arms at once since there is a "legitimate" government—even one of the right?

[Martinez] If there really are clean elections, we will feel obliged to respect the result—even if the "Convergence" does not win. And this would mean what you say: the end of the armed struggle.

[Hebel] If the government and the Army finally reject the plan, what will happen in El Salvador?

[Martinez] This plan contains new elements and we have made enormous concessions. You know that we rejected the elections of the past 5 years because, in the first place, they did not solve the country's problems and, secondly, they were farces to legitimize a government that fought the uprising. If the efforts that we are making now, after 8 years of armed struggle and enormous sacrifices, are rejected, the people will not keep still. We believe that then the whole process of revolutionary violence, of the sociopolitical crisis, will aggravate the people. The plan is a last great effort before the outbreak of the social explosion.

[Hebel] The FMLN has killed several mayors of the Christian Democratic Party and the rightist ARENA Party. When will you stop this? Will you stop only if your plan works?

[Martinez] We state in the plan that we will respect the mayors' work if they renounce the Army's plans. The whole local legal and political apparatus is directed to serving the most important factor in the fight against the uprising, that is, the military secret service. That is to say, that this apparatus, led by the mayors, serves to control the population, to discover the grass roots of those sympathizing with the FMLN, and to control all those who are connected with opposition activities. As long as the mayors play this role, we cannot regard them as simple public sector employees. They have to change their attitude.

UP Counterproposal Favorably Received
PA0102124589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0309 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Report by Marco Antonio Guevara]

[Text] First reactions to today's counterproposal by the Popular Union were heard from political party leaders attending a meeting with President Jose Napoleon Duarte this morning.

After listening to President Duarte's statements, Hector Oqueli Colindres, the Democratic Convergence representative at the meeting, described the document as acceptable because, as he pointed out, it eliminates the problem of constitutionality, which had initially been seen by some parties as a flaw in the guerrilla proposal.

[Begin Oqueli Colindres recording] We cannot announce our position yet. First, we have to study the UP proposals carefully. We have just learned about it here, as you have. In any case, the proposal shows that El Salvador is moving along. It tells us that the main issue being discussed [words indistinct] is the election and that the FMLN proposal dealt with the election problem. We hoped the FMLN proposal would eventually be discussed more rationally and now, that has begun. We hope it will be done in an acceptable manner. [end recording]

According to the MADC [Authentic Christian Democratic Movement] representatives, today's proposal is similar to the one made by MADC leader Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes in the United States last week and in El Salvador last Friday. Therefore the MADC supports the proposal.

[Begin unidentified person recording] The proposal should be reviewed instead of rejected. We should seek a consensus of all political forces in search of a national proposal that could serve as a counterproposal to the FMLN. Some things may not be possible, such as postponing the elections for very long, but we believe the elections could be postponed. We should meet with the FMLN to talk about the truce, which should last more than 2 days before and after the elections. The truce should last throughout the electoral process. The elections should be supervised by international observers. After accepting the legitimacy of the new government, the guerrillas will have to lay down their weapons. [end recording]

These were the first reactions by some political party leaders regarding the FMLN proposal and the Patriotic Union counterproposal. Of course, a closer analysis of the proposals is expected by political parties and institutions.

Guatemala

Cerezo on Missing Persons, Human Rights

PA3101193389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1357 GMT 28 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo has admitted that 1,706 people disappeared during 1988 even though, he said, there has been an "improvement" in the defense of human rights.

Cerezo noted yesterday that, according to police authorities, 60 percent of these persons did not disappear for political reasons but for "family" reasons and that most of the victims are women.

"According to many people and humanitarian institutions, the government has not investigated the disappearances, but 95 percent of them have been solved," the Guatemalan president asserted.

Cerezo said the details of cases that have been solved will be included in a report that Guatemala will submit to the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and to humanitarian organizations in the United States and Canada.

Cerezo said "those who affirm that there is no freedom in Guatemala are lying." As an example, he mentioned the 120 strikes that labor, mass, and student organizations declared in 1988 without any government interference.

Cerezo reiterated the government's rejection of the guerrillas' recent request for a dialogue that was to be mediated by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, and Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez.

To justify his refusal, Cerezo said "the guerrillas are at cross-purposes with history."

Cerezo asserted that the guerrillas' struggle in Guatemala has become "terrorism" and that "there is no basis for it. We are in a democratic process but the guerrillas do not want to participate in it."

The URNG leadership recently asked the government to agree to a dialogue in Venezuela during the inauguration of President-elect Carlos Andres Perez.

Cerezo and the Guatemalan Army have stood by their decision not to talk with the guerrillas, even though they had contact in October 1987 in Madrid that was described as a "rapprochement."

Honduras

Gunmen Fire at Lab Owned by Human Rights Leader

PA0102153489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1437 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Three unidentified gunmen last night fired at the "Custodio Laboratory" in Tegucigalpa. The laboratory is owned by Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the nongovernment Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee (CODEH), according to a family spokesman.

Preliminary reports state that the main door to the laboratory was hit by four bullets which caused considerable damage to a glass partition and some glass equipment, but resulted in no casualties.

According to Custodio's wife, Maria Helena de Custodio, "witnesses to the shooting told me that it was perpetrated by three men in a white sedan with no license plates."

Witnesses also said that the attack occurred at 1100 (0500 GMT), when there were many people walking along the street since a high school, supermarket, cinema, several restaurants, and the "Honduras Maya Hotel" are located nearby.

Maria Helena de Custodio also told ACAN-EFE that she constantly receives telephone threats from people who claim to be members of the Anticommunist Action Alliance (AAA or Triple A) and say they will kill her and her husband.

Mrs Custodio's car was recently shot at by unidentified men while it was parked in front of her home in Tegucigalpa's downtown area.

The Custodio family's home has also been attacked with firearms, rocks, and explosive devices on previous occasions, but these attacks resulted in no casualties.

Ramon Custodio Lopez, a pathologist, is currently in Canada participating in an international human rights seminar.

Custodio's name was one of those included on a list issued on 25 January, of five popular figures who the Triple A pledged to kill, after a leftist commando killed General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, former chief of the Honduran Armed Forces.

Military Announces New Brigades, Appointments

PA0102005989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] The Armed Forces has created two new brigades—one infantry and the other artillery—bringing the number of Armed Forces brigades to five. Prior to this, the Armed Forces had the following brigades: the 101st Brigade stationed at Ojo de Agua in the east-central part of the country; the 105th Brigade stationed at San Pedro Sula in the northwest; and the 110th Brigade stationed at Choluteca in the south.

The new infantry brigade will be made up of the 15th Battalion, with headquarters in Trujillo, Colon; the 5th Battalion, with headquarters in Dursuna, Gracias a Dios; and the 16th Battalion, stationed in Juticalpa, Olancho, which will be the headquarters of the new infantry brigade. The first artillery brigade will be composed of various Army artillery battalions and will be stationed in Zambrano, Francisco Morazan.

Colonel Manuel Suarez Benavides, public relations director of the Armed Forces, confirmed this report, adding that no new military units have been created, but that units had been grouped together in one brigade garrison. He said the two new brigades were created for organizational reasons, making it easier to control, train, and transfer command.

It was said unofficially that Colonel Ramon Rosa Martinez, former commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion and present commander of the 4th Battalion at La Ceiba, will command the new brigade stationed in Juticalpa. The commander of the 1st Artillery Brigade stationed in Zambrano will be Colonel Hector Rene Fonseca who was commanding officer of the 1st Artillery Battalion.

Colonel Lazaro Avila Solano, former commander of the 105th Brigade, will take over today as commander of the Public Security Force, replacing Colonel Leonel Riera Lunati, who becomes the Inspector General of the Armed Forces.

Last Friday, there was a change in one of the four branches of the institution when Colonel Arnulfo Cantarero Lopez became Navy commander, replacing Colonel Leonel Gutierrez Minera. It was also reported that the new Honduran Air Force commander will be Colonel Roberto Mendoza Garay, replacing Colonel Edgardo Mejia.

New Public Security Forces Commander Sworn In

PA0102235089 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Jan 89 p 3

[Summary] Tegucigalpa—In a change of command ceremony at the Casamata general headquarters yesterday, Colonel Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno assumed the post of Public Security Forces [FUSEP] commander, replacing Colonel Leonel Aquiles Riera Lunatti, who will become Armed Forces inspector general.

During the ceremony, Colonel Avila expressed his intention to check crime by helping the Judicial Branch carry out a rigorous admnistration of justice.

Correction, Comparison of Speech on Crime

PA3101193189

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish on 28 January publishes the text of General Humberto Regalado Hernandez' speech on the 3d anniversary of his taking office. The LA TRIBUNA version has been compared with the Tegucigalpa Domestic Service version published in the 30 January Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 22, and found to be identical with the exception of the following changes:

page 22, column two, make headline read, "Regalado Calls for Struggle Against Crime" (correcting headline)

page 22, column two, make subslug read, [Speech by General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, Armed Forces commander in chief, on the 3d anniversary of his taking office; place not given—live] (correcting subslug)

page 22, column two, last paragraph first sentence, make read...[Text] Honduran people: [new graf]

Upon commemorating on this date a new anniversary of my constitutional mandate as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, elected to the post as the Honduran people's sovereign representative, I take advantage of this occasion to reflect upon a few aspects of our national problems, given the latest incidents and in order to defend the legitimate rights...(supplying beginning of speech, indistinct words, and rewording)

page 23, column one, paragraph one, first sentence, make read...concept in which the military factor contributes to the...(rewording)

page 23, column one, paragraph two, first sentence, make read...first, to achieve a sustained and permanent political, economic, and...(supplying additional words)

page 23, column one, paragraph six, sentence three, make read...part-time military men who fail to gauge or control the destructive effect of all the means that the country has placed....(supplying indistinct words, rewording)

page 23, column two, paragraph two, last sentence, make read....extremist political doctrines and by those who are involved in illegal international businesses. (rewording)

page 23, paragraph three, sentence two, make read...However, these crimes were executed in such a way that reveals the existence of a systematic and professional kind of subversion that ....(supplying indistinct words, rewording)

page 23, column two, paragraph five, last sentence, make read....social, political, economic, religious, professional, and labor organizations. [new graf]

The Armed Forces ask the people to cooperate in the defense of their interests and the Armed Forces are fully confident that the sovereign National Congress, which is the genuine representative of the people, will give its valuable cooperation by issuing resolutions that allow the corresponding authorities to thoroughly investigate the crime. They should also look into the possibility of the Army's supporting, with full legal backing, the Public Security Forces to expedite legal actions against-....(supplying indistinct words, rewording)

Nicaragua

Ortega, D'Escoto on Relations With U.S.

PA0102160789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1342 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 1 Feb (AFP)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today urged Latin Americans to seek a means of preventing the United States from intervening in any country "where it feels that things are not going well."

Ortega told reporters that Nicaragua is the Central American country that "has most fully complied" with the Esquipulas II verification and control agreements.

"Nicaragua is no enemy of the United States. Nicaragua has never thought of, nor is it thinking of, invading the United States or mining U.S. ports. It is the United States that, early in this century, invaded Nicaragua," he added, before reiterating that "conditions are not right for a meeting with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said, meanwhile, that he has not lost hope of a new era of relations with the United States during George Bush's Presidency.

"We never lose hope. We are by nature optimistic. We believe we can be treated with respect, and we believe we can coexist with the United States," D'Escoto said.

Ortega emphasized, meanwhile, that the harmony advocated by Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez, who will be sworn in tomorrow, is very important and is tied to Europe's interests in Latin America.

Ortega also warned that "the highly industrialized nations must deal with fundamental issues such as the debt," which he described as unsettling to the region's economic and political stability.

Ortega said the meetings in Caracas demonstrate that "Latin America is standing up and defending its common interests, self-determination, and total independence."

He said that "Perez's inauguration has set the stage for a pluralistic meeting where Latin America's greatest problems will be discussed. The meeting will demonstrate that Latin America and the Caribbean have come of age, and that we are capable of dealing with problems that involve all of our countries regardless of our ideology."

Ortega met with Perez yesterday, shortly after his arrival in Caracas, and today said, "We spoke of Latin America's role in the effort to achieve regional peace and we discussed the Central American situation in depth."

Ortega, Azcona Discuss Amnesty Law for Contras

PA0102212089 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2011 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 1 Feb (REUTER)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega met today with his Honduran counterpart Jose Azcona and consented to his request to expand the Nicaraguan amnesty law so that rebels in Honduras can return to Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan Information Minister Manuel Espinosa said, "Nicaragua agrees to expand its amnesty law as requested by President Azcona so that contras returning to Nicaragua will enjoy all necessary guarantees for rejoining the country's economic life."

Approximately 12,000 anti-Sandinist rebels have been idle in their camps in Honduras since the U.S. Congress suspended contra aid 1 year ago. They have become a political headache for President Azcona's government, and he fears that the rebels will remain in Honduras indefinitely.

In an effort that reveals the depth of his concern, President Azcona, a firm ally of Washington and a constant critic of the Sandinists, visited Ortega in his hotel room today to discuss the problem.

After leaving Ortega's suite, Azcona told REUTER, "President Ortega read and handed me a document on how the problem of the contras in Honduras could be solved."

When we told Azcona that Ortega had already issued an amnesty law, by which the contras could return, he said, "We discussed expanding that amnesty law to persuade the rebels in Honduras to return to Nicaragua."

Minister Espinosa said that contras who are afraid to return to Nicaragua for any reason could go to other countries, including the United States.

While Ortega and Azcona discussed the future of the anti-Sandinist fighters, a top political contra leader promised to continue the war against the Nicaraguan Government, if the latter did not fulfill its commitments to democratize the country.

Alfredo Cesar, member of the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate, said that "as long as there is dictatorship there will be war."

At a news conference Cesar added, "Without an appropriate political policy the war will be resumed either at a low level or a high level depending on the foreign aid that the contra movement receives."

Ministry Claims Harassment by Honduran Troops

PA0102235989 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Feb 89

["Information Bulletin" issued by the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry in Managua on 1 February]

[Text] At 2200 on 29 January, Honduran Army troops from the Aguascalientes border area in Honduran territory used 81-mm mortars, RPG-7 rocket launchers, .50-caliber machineguns, and M-16 rifles to harass EPS positions located in the El Palmar border area, 3 km northeast of Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department. Managua, 1 February 1989 Defense Ministry Public Relations Directorate

Radio Catolica Appeals for Resumption of Newscast

PA0102180889 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has announced that the radio newscasts that had been banned by the Media Directorate will be allowed to resume broadcasts. The Media Directorate accepted the appeal presented by Radio Corporacion and Radio Mundial. Radio Catolica has also submitted a request to resume its Iglesia newscast, which was banned in July 1988.

Msgr Bismarck Carballo, spokesman for the archdiocese and director of Radio Catolica, issued a statement on Radio Catolica's request.

[Begin Carballo recording] Radio Catolica presented on 17 or 18 January a letter requesting that the Media Directorate restore our legitimate right to air a newscast. We told the media directorate that the radio station has three goals—to inform, to form, and to entertain—and we believe that we are capable of conveying information well.

We are prepared to register our journalists and work with the Iglesia newscast and other news segments. We did not publicize the letter out of courtesy, because we were waiting for the Media Directorate to answer our letter. I believe we have met the conditions for resuming the newscast, and we issue a public appeal to the Media Directorate to respond to our request. This would guarantee Radio Catolica's legitimate right to inform the people. [end recording]

Government Resumes Newscasts

PA0102175589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Feb 89 p 5

[Text] First Lieutenant Lissette Torres, chief of the Media Directorate, last night announced that the appeals submmitted by those responsible for the "Six O'Clock Sharp" newscast of Radio Corporacion and "The Nicaraguan" newscast of Radio Mundial have been accepted; therefore, these newscasts can return to the air after they have fulfilled the appropriate steps.

The two newscasts had been suspended because they violated the Communications Media Law.

Defense Ministry Reports 'Contra Attack' Kills 4

PA0102233489 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 31 Jan 89 p 12

[Text] The Defense Ministry last night issued a communique reporting a new contra attack that claimed four innocent victims in Chontales.

The information released by the ministry says that at 2200 on 28 January, the guerrillas clashed with the Army at Las Praderas farm, 10 km south of La Gateada, as part of their continual disregard for the military cease-fire.

The cross fire that ensued after the mercenaries—commanded by Carlos Rugama Solano, alias "Rabbit"—attacked an EPS patrol from the farm, claiming the lives of three children and one youth. Their names are: Melvin Antonio Robleto Gonzalez, 10; Carlos Tapia Gonzalez, 10; Emilia Robleto Gonzalez, 2; and Minerva Robleto Gonzalez, 17.

In the communique, the Defense Ministry expresses its profound regret over the innocent blood shed by the contras' criminal actions.

Minister Announces 'Minimum' of 30,000 Dismissals

PA0202144989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2142 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Planning and Budget Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca confirmed today that a "minimum" of 30,000 officials, including policemen and EPS officers, will be dismissed.

Martinez Cuenca emphasized that the government's economic plan announced last Monday by President Daniel Ortega seeks to halt inflation and stimulate production, and that the reorganization (dismissals) will continue throughout this year.

In his speech to the National Assembly and the nation, Ortega announced drastic economic measures, such as a reduction of the budget, loans, and investments, while he said there would no longer be any land expropriations.

Minister Martinez Cuenca explained that the dismissals will affect some 10,000 members of the Sandinist Armed Forces, 13,000 members of the police, and approximately 7,000 state workers.

The official said excess gvernment expenses will no longer be financed by issuing more money—which is the cause of inflation—but rather by selling and renting state property and by selling products that are illegally brought into Nicaragua.

"The Sandinists are aware that these budget cuts evidently entail unemployment and recession, but the government does not have any other solution to halt inflation," Martinez Cuenca pointed out.

The minister specified that the objective of the measures "is not to save the Sandinist government, but to save all Nicaraguans."

He also criticized private business leaders and said their proposals are demagogic because they oppose the government's plan to fight the worst problem affecting this Central American nation: inflation.

The planning and budget minister explained that the association of private sector producers has met with the government and "is convinced of the need for a concerted effort" to cope with inflation.

President Ortega announced Monday that this year the government is going to spend 602 billion cordobas ($261 million)—16 billion cordobas ($7 million) more than what it really has.

Government Agrees To Compensate Sugar Company

PA0102233689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Jan 89 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report]

[Text] On the night of 28 January in Managua, the basis for an agreement was reached over the differences between the government and the huge private consortium Nicaragua Sugar, following the intervention of the San Antonio sugar mill.

Authorized government sources said intense negotiations took place during the last few days between Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of Agriculture-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform, and Nicaraguan Sugar's General Manager Carlos Pellas and Vice President Rosendo Chamorro Benard.

The agreement, of obvious political importance, helps create a climate of agreement and reactivates productivity between the government, producers, and workers. The agreement establishes among other points, realistic compensation to Nicaragua Sugar by the government because of the San Antonio sugar mill take-over, the incorporation of this sugar mill into the State Sugar Corporation, and a series of guarantees and support to other productive and service enterprises administered by the same business group.

It was also learned that Nicaragua Sugar's shareholders, composed of some 250 businessmen, will be called to a meeting within the next few days to discuss the basis and ratify the terms of the agreement.

This would end the legal action taking place in the Agrarian Tribunal; an out-of-court settlement would be reached, which both sides would consider positive and mutually acceptable.

Since about 4 months ago, representatives of the Pellas-Chamorro consortium have been making preliminary contacts with the government, which has expressed interest in trying to remedy the situation.

The most serious negotiations took place on 23 January, when Commander Jaime Wheelock and Carlos Pellas reached an agreement on how to negotiate their differences.

According to information supplied at one time by the Finance Ministry, the San Antonio sugar mill's estimated value is about 12 billion cordobas.

Panama

CCN Leader Denies Meeting With U.S. Official

PA0102204589 Panama City RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] It is untrue that the opposition's presidential candidates and National Civic Crusade's [CCN] leaders met in Panama with U.S. State Department representatives, CCN Coordinator Carlos Abadia has said.

[Begin recording] [Abadia] That is entirely false. This has been completely a Panamanian movement. Today we sent a letter clarifying this to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, because we believe it is necessary to clarify this to citizens in general as well as to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, a newspaper with some prestige that should not go around publishing such news. It could hurt the newspaper's credibility.

[Reporter] What was reported in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA?

[Abadia] It reported that a meeting was held between the presidential candidates, opposition political parties, and the CCN and a U.S. State Department representative

who brought an order to finance the campaign with funds that were frozen by the U.S. Government—the funds that belong to the Panamanian people. This is not true, because it would be a violation of the of the CCN's principles. [end recording]

FDP Condemns U.S. Investment in Military Base

PA0102141489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Feb 89 pp A-1, B-4

[Communique issued by the Panama Defense Forces Information and Public Relations Directorate; date and place not given]

[Text] According to a recent communique issued by the U.S. Southern Command, a top-level conference was held in Atlanta, Georgia, to prepare a final draft of the structural plan for the orderly withdrawal of U.S. military from Panama by 31 December 1999, thus implementing what is stipulated in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. In an open contradiction to what is stated in the U.S. Southern Command communique, the Pentagon recently approved a $50 million investment to make improvements on Howard Air Force Base next year.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Armed Forces, through the Department of Defense, have been carrying out landscaping work at Howard Air Force Base, at a cost of approximately $2 million, to build a military highway that will detour vehicle transit from Howard to Veracruz and other nearby towns. This highway is being built in light of the major improvements that will be taking place at Howard Air Force Base in 1990.

The construction of this highway is intended to prevent Panamanians from freely traveling on the highway that currently goes through Howard Air Force Base and is in open violation of the Panama Canal treaties. According to the agreements made between the two nations, the U.S. Armed Forces cannot prohibit access to the base for the towns of Veracruz and La Polvareda.

It has also been learned that the United States has increased the number of its OA-37B combat aircraft by 21 units this year.

These arbitrary actions violate the treaties and show the Panamanian Government and the international community that the U.S. Government has no intention of giving Howard Air Force Base to Panama on 31 December 1999.

[Signed] Panama Defense Forces Information and Public Relations Directorate

Columnist: Bush 'Not A Positive Change'

PA0102124989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Jan 89 p 4

["Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: " 'Cuchungo' Endara: Candidate of Betrayal"]

[Text] Some Panamanian observers of U.S. foreign policy have naively pointed out that the latest U.S. actions, such as the meddling in Panama's domestic politics through publications that clearly involve propaganda supporting the antigovernment candidates—which is the case of THE TROPIC TIMES [U.S. Armed Forces paper] and the disinformation recently published by THE WASHINGTON POST about the operations of the Banco Institucional Patria—are instigated by Reagan administration officials who are still working for the Bush administration.

I am one of those who said that Bush's election was not a positive change for Panama and that the most we could expect was a change in methods. This change might involve proposals for dialogue and talks during which an attempt would be made to make U.S. interests prevail. In addition, I think that Panama's position of upholding the principles of sovereignty and self-determination and seeking a full recovery of its territory can only be maintained by a government composed of men who know what a position of dignity and patriotism means. It is a historical fact that the United States only respects proud peoples who are led by proud men.

The first attacks under the Bush administration have been aimed at General Manuel Antonio Noriega. One of the leading U.S. newspapers, The WASHINGTON POST, has resumed its smears and disinformation campaign against the Panamanian political-military leader and commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] by charging that the FDP's Banco Institucional Patria is being used to launder drug profits.

The ultimate goal of THE WASHINGTON POST's campaign is to discredit, for political purposes, the entire Panamanian financial system, which is made up of international banks. The objective is to make our banking center disappear so its funds will transferred to a U.S. city—specifically Miami—where the U.S. Mafia and the Latin American counterrevolutionaries are on the prowl.

The Bush administration's wolf showed its teeth when a group of Yankee Latin American experts recommended in the Santa Fe II document "the revision of Panama's banking laws so that country will not be plunged again into a corruption backed by drug trafficking. Panama's Constitution would have to be amended to permit Panamanian citizens to be extradited to the United States." THE WASHINGTON POST has simply begun to promote that.

Regarding THE TROPIC TIMES, one must not forget that it is an official paper of the U.S. Armed Forces; consequently, it is a true reflection of the Americans' constant provocations, which aim to cause confrontations. They want a reaction from Panamanians to have a pretext for a direct military aggression. Then they could disregard the Torrijos-Carter treaties and renegotiate them from a position of strength.

So that there will be no doubts left as to U.S. intentions, the Santa Fe II document states that "when a democratic (submissive is what we call it) regime is in power, serious (it is not serious to them to demand compliance with the canal treaties) planning must begin for the control of the canal, including the U.S. retention of military bases, especially Howard Air Force Base, Rodman Naval Station, Galeta Island, and Quarry Heights." We must add that they also want to seize Panamanian territory for military goals. This plan is progressing through the ANCON [National Association for the Conservation of Nature] group, which is purchasing (financed by the United States) and fencing jungle areas in the border regions.

A few days ago, we wrote that in the current election campaign there is a confrontation between the patriotic popular forces and the antinational forces represented by the oligarchic Democratic Opposition Alliance. The best example of this was given by "Cuchungo" Endara, the presidential candidate of betrayal, who, believing that his victory "is a piece of cake," told THE TROPIC TIMES that if he reaches power he, Endara, would agree to renegotiate the 1977 Panama Canal treaties.

Let us not be naive. The struggle is long, and the only position we must maintain is one of dignity. Our final objective is victory.

Dignity Battalions Denounce U.S. 'Interference'

PA0102175989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Feb 89 pp 24, B-11

[Communique issued by the Dignity Brigade's Patriotic Coordination Command in Panama City on 30 January 1989]

[Text] The Dignity Brigade's Patriotic Coordination Command [Comando Patriotico de Coordinacion de la Brigada de la Dignidad] (COPACOBRID) reiterates that the Dignity Battalion's role is mainly patriotic and not partisan or sectarian. We thus feel it is our duty to condemn the domestic and foreign traitors who participated in a blatant act of interference in which U.S. Department of State representative Richard Wyrough, together with the nefarious [U.S. Ambassador] Arthur Davis, [Deputy Chief of Mission John] Maisto, and [U.S. Embassy political officer Joseph] McGhee, met with members of the opposition alliance to coordinate the Yankee embassy's financial and logistical support for the opposition electoral campaign.

We would also like to point out that this interference involves using the frozen funds that the Reagan administration took away from the people and placed at the service of Eric Arturo Delvalle and a Washington-appointed election-strategy team to promote a candidate willing to perpetuate colonialism by guaranteeing the renegotiation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The Dignity Battalions consider this new incident of interference in Panama's domestic affairs to be yet another episode in the U.S. sedition campaign and a definite expression of aggression against our country.

This conspiracy seeks to involve the U.S. Southern Command in the Panamanian electoral process. Therefore, bearing in mind that the Dignity Battalions and their frontline activists against foreign aggression play the role of defenders of the plan for national liberation, we will remain in a state of special alert. We will keep our guard up to face the enemy and support any patriotic effort to guarantee peace and tranquillity, which is needed so much by the people, so they can exert their electoral right to vote freely and without fear in democratic national elections.

We call on all Panamanian patriots, regardless of political banner or ideology, to display a combative attitude of unity against this new phase of foreign aggression.

Let us not allow this provocation. Let us hope for a possible rectification, but let us not be confused or intimidated by the U.S. Embassy's arrogance.
We remain firm, alert, and unyielding.
Not a step backward! Resist, advance, and win!
[Signed] COPACOBRID
Dr Benjamin Colamarco P.
Enrique Thompson
Major Arturo Marquinez, retired
Panama, 30 January 1989

COLINA Announces Presidential Ticket

PA0202034889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0135 GMT 2 Feb 89

[News Conference by the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) at the Continental Hotel in Panama City—live]

[Text] [Unidentified speaker] COLINA sincerely and profoundly appreciates your presence here at this event on this historic night.

COLINA has called this news conference to announce to the Panamanian and international media—and through it, to the local and international public—the ticket with which we will run in the current electoral campaign.

For this important announcement, I have the pleasure to present Darinel Espino, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD]. [applause]

[Espino] The parties that compose COLINA began a series of meetings to agree on a ticket that will guarantee an electoral victory. These parties also began consultations with parties and various political fronts that would guarantee their support.

We want to announce here that the National Action Party has joined COLINA. This is a party that will fight with us. [applause]

Following a thorough study—an analysis by COLINA parties—we formed a ticket for national liberation, a ticket for liberation, sovereignty, national development, and for compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. This ticket is composed of PRD President Carlos Duque Jaen for president. [applause, followed by shouts: "Omar!"]

The candidate for first vice president will be Labor Party Secretary General Ramon Sieiro Murgas. [applause]

The candidate for second vice president will be a great nationalist leader, a great fighter of this cause for national liberation, Mr Aquilino Boyd. [applause]

We will win the elections, vote by vote, with the efforts of all Panamanians. To begin this campaign immediately, COLINA's campaign chief will be Dr Ernesto Perez Balladares. [applause]

The eight parties that compose COLINA will nominate this ticket for national liberation on 6 February.

We maintain our slogan: COLINA yes, colony no! [applause]

Nomination Accepted

PA0202041489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0158 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Speech by Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) President Carlos Duque Jaen at the Continental Hotel in Panama City on occasion of being named as the National Liberation Coalition's (COLINA) candidate for the Republic's Presidency—live]

[Text] Good evening [cheers]. On behalf of myself and my family, I hereby thank the COLINA parties for nominating me to be president of the Republic and to lead the fatherland in the 1989-1994 term. This nomination, more than being recognition for me, is a challenge, because I am accepting a responsibility on behalf of my party, the glorious PRD [applause], the party of Omar...[cheers; crowd shouts: "Who are our people? Our people are PRD!"; "You can feel it, you can feel it, Omar is here!"; "Viva Carlos Duque, the future president of Panama!"]...because I am accepting a responsibility on behalf of the PRD, the party of Omar, of the revolution. This is a challenge for Torrijism, to continue improving the social achievements and for the departure of the last U.S. soldier from our territory. [applause] [crowd shouts: "They are definitely getting out!"] That is the commitment Omar made, and that is the commitment we patriots have with our leader, Omar.

This is also a challenge, because as a result of the economic, political, and military aggression imposed by the Reagan administration—which our people are enduring as a result of the economic and social restrictions—we have the responsibility to confront in a dignified manner that aggression, defeat it, and continue forward. [applause, cheers of "Viva Carlos Duque!" "Even if they do not like it, they are getting out!"]

The COLINA presidential ticket I lead together with Ramon Sieiro, secretary general of the Labor Party, and Aquilino Boyd as second vice president, is undoubtedly a winning slate. [applause]

In forming this slate, I must recognize that great nationalist party, that great Panamanian party, that great party, the Revolutionary Panamenist Party, [applause] which patriotically set aside its just aspirations. We must give recognition to that great party and its merits in this struggle. [applause] We are sure, gentlemen, that with our efforts, we will lead the fatherland with responsibility, dignity, and patriotism.

I wish to reaffirm what I have said on various occasions on behalf of my party. These elections are a challenge to the revolution, because the forces that are confronted in this contest are one side, COLINA—which represents a project of national liberation—and the opposition forces, who continue playing into the hands of colonialism and the U.S. policy of aggression. [unidentified person shouts: "And they represent treason"; "You can always tell a traitor"; "Down with traitors"; "Put the seditious ones on a plane."]

That is why I am convinced our people will support our slate, and as of now, it is the winning slate. [applause] Our people know who the patriots are and who the traitors are. Our people have no colonialist ambitions. [crowd shouts: "Never!"; "COLINA, yes, colony, no!"; "On our feet or dead, but never on our knees!"]

I hereby reaffirm we are not enemies of the American people, and we want to tell the new U.S. President that Panama is a friendly people, that we have been treated as if we were their worst enemies. The only thing we want is to be respected as a free and sovereign people. [applause] We invite the opposition forces to carry out a dignified and decent electoral campaign. We invite them to a democratic and civic campaign, where all Panamanians will win.

This will be our line of action in this campaign. I want to make this pledge and fulfill this commitment. [shouts of "Viva Carlos Duque Jaen, the future president of Panama!"; "Not one step backwards!"]

My message to all my PRD fellow party members: Thank you very much for trusting me. [applause] The party has been strengthened in the democratic election of the representatives and legislators. I feel there are no winners or losers. Everyone: Come join this battle; we are going to win.

As General Noriega—the general of dignity, the general of peace—has said: In 1989, we will either be free or we will be a colony! [applause, shouts of "Viva Carlos Duque!"; "One single territory, one single flag!"] On our feet [crowd shouts: "Never on our knees!"] or dead, never on our knees! Not one step backward. Viva Omar! [crowd shouts: "Not one step backwards!"; applause]

VP Nominee Speaks

PA0202042889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0147 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Statements by Labor Party, PALA, Secretary General Ramon Sieiro Murgas at the Montecarlo Room, Continental Hotel in Panama City after being nominated first vice presidential candidate by the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA—live]

[Text] Aquilino Boyd, future second vice president of the Republic of Panama [applause]; distinguished members of COLINA; fellow Labor Party [PALA] supporters and citizens:

I begin by thanking COLINA for the honor of being nominated the first vice presidential candidate. We will carry our political coalition's flag to victory in the May 1989 elections. [applause]

I accept this distinction on behalf of the 110,000 PALA followers throughout the country, who have worked with enthusiasm and dedication to make PALA a large, strong, and organized party. Our party is an efficient instrument for the development of Panama. [applause] Our opponents speak of justice, freedom, and democracy. However, we demand justice, not for certain people and their interests, or for the political ambitions of individuals or businessmen, but for the Panamanian nation, which comes first and foremost. The aggression, of which we are the victims, is unfair. It is the aggression of a great power, which is conspiring with the Panamanian business sector.

We offer freedom to everyone who shares the principles of sovereignty and independence. Their votes can show that the great majority of the people living in the isthmus are authentic Panamanians who are proud of the Republic. [applause]

We will be practicing democracy by opening the voting booths to all who wish to exercise their political and civic rights. We will not imitate democracies that organize, finance, and plan economic aggression against small countries, or that conduct disinformation campaigns by distorting the truth to offend and insult leaders who do not follow their orders. [applause]

We want a progressive and popular democracy in which the votes of workers and peasants are not bought or manipulated with bags of dollars, something that undermines the health and education of all Panamanians. [applause]

We want a democracy in which power comes from the majority. Our candidates come directly from the rank and file of our parties without intermediaries and without orders from the Pentagon or foreign diplomats. We are exercising our free and legal rights with democratic responsibility. We have proposed government plans and programs and have taken into consideration ability, merit, and aptitude so the masses can decide who deserves the honor of representing them in every post that is up for election. That is how we selected the candidates who represent the unflinching will to continue the process of national liberation until the year 2000.

That is how the powerful current moving toward the May elections was formed. We will confirm at the polls—with order, responsibility, freedom, and civic awareness—the determination of the Panamanian people to gain the complete independence and sovereignty of our fatherland. Our government programs will be based on our extensive knowledge of the national situation and of the human potential we can count on. Our's will be a government of work and production on behalf of the Panamanian people. That is why we will promote agriculture by stimulating production and compensating producers and workers without exploiting consumers. We will offer all businessmen and industrialists the support they need to decrease imports and increase exports to put our trade balance in equilibrium. We will exploit our natural resources rationally to strengthen our economic independence.

The implementation of policies from abroad, which mortgage both the present and the future, will give way to new models of existence nourished by our own traditions and strengthened by our own capabilities. No nation, no matter how big, rich, or powerful, should violate its international commitments or refuse to honor its duties.

We are a people of peace and understanding. We are not, however, a community of submissive slaves or lambs. Panamanians are anything but that. [applause]

We neither seek nor want confrontation. We want to live with the world in harmony and peace based on mutual respect. We will demand the complete fulfillment of the obligations that other nations have acquired, just as we will also fulfill our obligations. We will demand that the sanctions imposed on us be lifted because their only

objective is to undermine the generational change of command process leading to the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. [applause]

It is necessary for everyone, those in government and those being governed; private and government sectors; COLINA, opposition, and independent parties; businessmen; intellectuals; workers; and peasants, to join in the restructuring of the national economy. We have to seek in ourselves—in a climate of reconciliation and stability—a way of living as a community so that foreign pressure can never again inflict on us a crisis such as the one currently overwhelming all Panamanians.

COLINA brothers, we have been the victims of a well-planned and organized campaign from within and abroad that is trying to diminish our prestige, weaken our trust, and even dissipate the strength of our unity. We must firmly react against it.

I cannot end without expressing my deep appreciation and reverence for my parents, who taught me public service. With their guidance and leadership, they prepared me to face the responsibilities of the future.

I would also like to thank my wife and children, and express to them my admiration and love because they have shown much understanding by giving me the time I should have spent with them.

Thank you very much, my fellow party members. Victory will belong to COLINA. [applause]

Boyd Accepts Nomination

PA0202035289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0142 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Speech by Panamanian ambassador to the OAS, Aquilino Boyd, at the Continental Hotel in Panama City on the occasion of being named as the National Liberation Coalition's (COLINA) candidate for the Republic's second vice president—live]

[Text] Distinguished members of COLINA, fellow party members:

My most expressive thanks for having entrusted me with the candidacy for second vice president on the triumphant ticket headed by Carlos Duque and Ramon Sieiro. [applause]

I hope to struggle in this political campaign so the electoral race will lead us to clean, honest, and just elections on the path to perfect our democracy.

I am convinced that with this ticket, we will strengthen the foreign policy principles we fought for at General Torrijos' side in so many battles. [applause]

The free, independent, nationalist, and nonaligned foreign policy we have followed all these years will be stronger with the resounding victory of the COLINA parties. [applause]

Now, more than ever, we must unite our wills so Panamanians can tell the world, especially the United States, that, united with our armed institution, we will always be willing to move forward and advance, step by step, toward Panama's full liberation in the year 2000. [applause, crowd shouts: "They will leave, no doubt!"]

We want to express a cautious optimism with the new Washington government so these unjust and inhuman sanctions against our people will be lifted soon.

We know we will talk a lot about one particular issue in this campaign: true compliance with the letter and spirit of the Panama Canal treaties signed by Gen Torrijos and President Carter. [applause]

We are convinced that with a vigorous foreign policy, such as that which President Carlos Duque will implement, we will be able to tell the world and Latin America that the problems we have experienced and the crisis we have suffered because of these unjust sanctions have strengthened our character and our will to fight. Thank you. [applause]

Opposition Candidate Seeks Group of 8 Support

PA0102223789 Paris AFP in Spanish 1817 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 1 Feb (AFP)—Guillermo Endara, the Panamanian opposition's presidential candidate, today publicly asked the Group of Eight (G-8) to supervise actively and effectively "to prevent fraud" in the 7 May Panamanian elections.

Endara, who along with other opposition leaders is attending the inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas, charged that General Manuel Antonio Noriega is preparing a new electoral fraud. He warned that "it is essential that the Latin American democracies send observers before, during, and after the elections" to prevent a fraud.

Endara stressed his presence in Caracas is mainly to obtain active solidarity from the Latin American governments regarding the Panamanian democratization process.

He expressed confidence that the Group of Eight, from which Panama has been sidelined for the past year, "will watch over and cooperate not only in the holding of the elections but in the organization and development of the electoral campaign."

Regarding the presence in Caracas of Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, Endara said he views the invitation as a skillful maneuver by Venezuelan President-elect Perez "to commit Solis Palma to a process of real democratization."

Although confident of an election victory by the opposition in May, Endara emphatically ruled out the possibility of taking office as president while Gen Noriega continues as chief of the Defense Forces.

"I hope we will be able to find an institutional solution so Noriega will leave the post of commander. That solution is his retirement," Endara said.

Endara also ruled out the possibility that after the opposition's victory, the 1977 Torrijos-Carter treaties will be renegotiated with the United States.

"The treaties are laws of both countries, and they must be adhered to. There is currently no Panamanian who wants to revise those treaties," he stressed.

MOLIRENA, PNP Sign Electoral Agreement

PA0102223989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The Popular Nationalist Party [PNP] and the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [MOLIRENA] signed an electoral agreement today for the 7 May elections. According to the agreement, the PNP agrees to support the opposition presidential candidates. Both political parties agree to contribute to the Panamanian people's efforts led by the opposition presidential candidates Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford to establish an authentically democratic government that can promote a fraternal reconciliation among all Panamanians of goodwill.

Mario Galindo, member of MOLIRENA's political directorate, praised the nationalist struggle waged by PNP President Olimpo Saez and nominated him candidate for legislator for the 8-9 circuit in Panama City.

As for the political situation in the country, Mario Galindo said:

[Begin recording] After deciding to participate in elections without electoral guarantees, we had to promote the unification of all opposition political groups. This has been achieved, and this electoral alliance document we have just read is an important part of this alliance and of the electoral unification of all opposition forces. [end recording]

Following the signing of the agreement by both parties, Olimpo Saez said:

[Begin recording] Our modest efforts are aimed at achieving, along with MOLIRENA and the other opposition parties and groups that may unite in this patriotic task...[changes thought]. All our efforts and all our sacrifices made now will be added to the sacrifices made yesterday so the sovereign will of the people may be respected. You, my friends from the PNP, should know that when we make a commitment, we stick to it until the end, whatever the consequences may be. [end recording]

Deposed Vice President Esquivel on May Elections

PA0102225189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Interview with deposed Vice President Roderick Esquivel by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Esquivel] The upcoming elections are very important. We must all vote, and we must vote in favor of democracy. The upcoming elections are really a plebiscite. The Liberals who support me are on the side of democracy, as are all true liberals in the world. Therefore, we accepted the invitation by the Christian Democratic Party to attend the inauguration of the Christian Democratic International politburo meeting.

[Reporter] Mr Esquivel, we are practically 3 months away from election day. Do you believe there is an adequate atmosphere for an electoral process in which the Panamanians' votes will be respected?

[Esquivel] Definitely not. There are no conditions for truly free elections.

[Reporter] What would those conditions be, Dr Esquivel?

[Esquivel] We need absolute freedom. Elections are an instrument of democracy, but in Panama the dictatorship is using elections as an instrument to pretend to be legitimate.

[Reporter] Will the May elections solve the current Panamanian crisis?

[Esquivel] I do not think so. We have to do something more than organizing fixed elections, which are conducted by the dictatorship and which offer absolutely no guarantees.

[Reporter] What do you mean when you say we must do something else?

[Esquivel] I am refering to many things...

[Reporter, interrupting] Such as?

[Esquivel] I am referring, for example, to international pressure and the unity of all Panamanians in one single force to vote for the opposition single candidacy.

PRD Leader Thanks COPPPAL for Solidarity

PA0102225389 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Jan 89 pp A-1, B-4

[Text] Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) President Carlos Alberto Duque Jaen said today that "pressures from U.S. imperialism to force us to give up the historical struggle Omar Torrijos made known throughout the world have failed, and we are thankful for the solidarity we have received from independent groups that have realized their solidarity with Panama is a fundamental strategy for the integration and unity of our peoples."

Duque made that statement in a letter to all organizations affiliated with the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL), Socialist International, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Duque said that "we have a huge task ahead: stabilizing our democracy and implementing a policy of new markets to consolidate our economic independence. We will struggle with courage and staunch resistance to win the battle for our sovereignty, which undoubtedly is the vanguard for the liberation of all Latin American peoples."

Further in his note, Duque said that "we are moving forward amid great difficulties; we have begun an electoral campaign that many thought was impossible. Nevertheless, our country has always accomplished objectives that seemed to be impossible dreams."

Regarding the upcoming 7 May elections, Duque said they will express the determination of popular forces that will openly and militantly defy the oligarchy supported by imperialism.

"During this process, international solidarity has gravitated as a decisive factor that has stopped interventionism, Duque stressed. [no closing quotation marks as published]

He added that in undertaking "our democratic test," the PRD reaffirms its principles and its nationalism, which reflect the determination of the great majorities that will not yield to any shady deal.

Duque stressed in his message: "COPPPAL, Socialist International, and Third World brothers: The spirit of liberation that has profound economic connotations at the present time unites us above any secondary circumstance or consideration. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The note ended by saying Panama calls on friendly peoples to close ranks so the elections can strengthen the victorious journey that will culminate as programmed, at noon on 31 December 1999.

Labor Ministry Decree Regulates Layoffs

PA0102192289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Labor and Social Welfare Minister Cesar Martans announced today the signing of Executive Decree No 2 dated 26 January 1989. The decree adopts temporary actions for regulating labor issues. It will be in effect as of 31 January and replaces Decree No 22 that suspended all layoffs until the last day of January.

Martans emphasized that this measure makes MITRAB [Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare] a regulating agency in the worker-employer relationship. Therefore, as of 31 January 1989, no mutual agreements between workers and employers will be allowed without MITRAB's authorization. Any agreement not countersigned by MITRAB will be anulled; as a result, the worker will be reinstated in his post, Martans added.

Concerning dismissals, the minister said his office will regulate these 100 percent. The ministry also reserves the right not to ratify resignations that are presented in clear violation of workers' rights. Martans said that any violations of this decree entail economic penalties.

Weekly Review of Political Situation

PA0102225589

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from the Panamanian and regional media related to the current political situation in Panama. This review covers the period from 24 to 30 January and includes some items that have been processed in fuller form.

Relations With the United States

During the reporting period, the Panamanian media gave wide coverage to several issues regarding relations with the United States: criticism of the U.S. Southern Command paper THE TROPIC TIMES, described by the progovernment newspapers as a "clandestine" publication for reporting on opposition activities; Guillermo Endara's alleged statement on the possibility of renegotiating the Torrijos-Carter treaties; a purported meeting between Richard Wyrough, director of Panama Affairs at the State Department, with members of the Panamanian opposition and leaders of the Civic Crusade; and alleged U.S. plans to fund the opposition's election campaign with Panamanian deposits frozen in U.S. banks.

Panama City MATUTINO on 25 January carried an unattributed report alleging that the U.S. Southern Command offered the Panamanian opposition the use of its newspaper, THE TROPIC TIMES. Similar reports were carried by the Panama City papers LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, CRITICA, MEDIODIA, and LA REPUBLICA.

A CRITICA editorial on 27 January stated that Guillermo Endara, presidential candidate for the Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADO], had made statements to the effect that if the opposition wins the 7 May elections, he would be willing to renegotiate the Panama Canal treaties. A similar editorial attributing Endara's statements to an article that appeared in THE TROPIC TIMES was carried by MATUTINO on 25 January.

During a news conference—covered by MEDIODIA on 26 January and reported by Panama City ACAN on 25 January—to announce an upcoming Christian Democratic International meeting, Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice presidential candidate on the ADO ticket, denied the opposition is considering renegotiating the 1977 canal treaties. He added that "to make changes to the 1977 treaties, it would be necessary to hold a plebiscite."

On the subject of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, in its 27 January issue, MEDIODIA carried a report on an "exclusive" interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter. Asked about former President Ronald Reagan's last statement on the future of the Panama Canal treaties, Ritter said "there is no clause in the treaties that allows the United States—by claiming that it does not like the Panamanian Government or that it is not entirely pleased with the Panamanian Government—to justify violating the treaties." Ritter added, "No Panamanian—no patriotic Panamanian—would renegotiate those treaties, regardless of the millions of dollars involved."

The progovernment media also gave extensive coverage to a purported meeting between Richard Wyrough and ADO members and leaders of the Civic Crusade. LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL on 29 January carried an unattributed report stating that "Mr Wyrough came to bring a direct message from the State Department...that upon being incorporated into the ADO , Eric Arturo Delvalle would place, at the opposition's disposal, all the Panamanian people's funds that the United States has frozen."

According to a 29 January ACAN report, Panamanian opposition figures denied they were receiving U.S. financing. ADO vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford is cited as saying "that is another big lie; they are again lying miserably." ADO Legislator Guillermo Cochez added that "we do not have the assistance of the money held in escrow nor do we need it, and if they were to offer it to us, we would reject it." Editorials condemning this alleged use of frozen funds have appeared in the local press and radio and television newscasts.

Richard Wyrough's name also hit the front pages of the Panamanian newspapers and received extensive coverage in radio and television newscasts when the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] opened their new Banco Institucional Patria. Panama City Circuito RPC Television on 27 January carried an unattributed report saying Wyrough was responsible for an article in THE WASHINGTON POST that said the new bank would "give the Panamanian military more control over the economy and would be used to launder drug money." The WASHINGTON POST charges were denied by Colonel Angel Mina Justiniani, executive vice president of the bank, and its general manager, Simon Vega.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 29 January carried an unattributed report on comments by Mario de Diego, executive director of the National Banking Commission, on THE WASHINGTON POST article. De Diego said "this is a new attempt at disinformation and destabilization—for political purposes—of the Panamanian financial system, thus discrediting General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the FDP, and the country, particularly the Panamanian banking system." The Panamanian press also has reported on alleged violations of Panamanian citizens' rights by U.S. authorities and soldiers stationed in the former Canal Zone. LA REPUBLICA DOMINCAL on 29 January carried a list of 282 persons arrested by U.S. authorities and charged with trespassing from 4 May 1988 through 17 December 1988. According to the FDP report, three persons were handcuffed and beaten, five were held at gunpoint, and one was handcuffed and beaten so badly that he had to be hospitalized.

Another report on alleged human rights violations was carried by MATUTINO on 24 January. The newspaper reported that 12 families are "facing a difficult situation" as a result of the U.S. authorities' decision to close their businesses on Venado Beach, which borders Howard Air Force Base.

In addition, Panama City Televisora Nacional on 30 January carried a report on the "arbitrary arrest of and physical abuse against Panamanian citizens Jorge de Leon and Carlos Rivas by the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Panama." The report adds that the two men were "detained and physically assaulted" by two U.S. sergeants dressed in civilian clothes.

Domestic Political Affairs

During this period, media coverage of the domestic political situation focused on the progovernment parties' preparations for their national conventions.

The ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] had originally set its convention date for 6 February, but that was later changed to 1 February. On 30 January, Panama City Circuito RPC Television carried a statement by PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino announcing that the convention had been postponed until 6 February.

Even though no official announcement regarding progovernment candidates has been made, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 24 January, MEDIODIA on 26 January, and CRITICA on 26 January mentioned the following as possible candidates: Manuel Solis Palma, minister

in charge of the Presidency; General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander in chief; Ramon Sieiro, secretary general of the Labor Party; and Aquilino Boyd, Panamanian ambassador to the OAS.

Meanwhile, LA REPUBLICA and MEDIODIA on 25 and 26 January respectively, reported that the Revolutionary Workers Party, PRT, "will not seek an alliance with COLINA (National Liberation Coalition) because the latter has not clearly defined its position on the foreign debt." The PRT also described the opposition ADO as "a freak of imperialism."

MEDIODIA and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 24 and 26 January respectively, reported that after several appeals asking the Electoral Tribunal to reverse its decision to confer legal status on the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) faction led by Hildebrando Nicosia, the PPA faction headed by Guillermo Endara has decided to form a new party known as the "Arnulfist Party." Likewise, it was announced that Mireya Moscoso de Arias, former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid's widow, will officially resign from the PPA, her late husband's party. Gilberto Arias made the announcement and added that "we are going to stop talking about authentic Panamenism."

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 30 January carried a lengthy report on the Authentic Liberal Party (PLA) national convention. During the event held at the Bella Vista Theater on 29 January, the PLA's support for the opposition presidential ticket was officially announced. Several opposition groups and parties were represented at this event, which was "held in an atmosphere of harmony, while bands and fireworks gave a festive air to the event."

A meeting of the Christian Democratic International was held in Panama City on 30 January. Circuito RPC Television on 30 January carried a report on the meeting, which was attended by, among other prominent international Christian Democrats, former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. In his opening remarks, Herrera Campins said "we did not want to continue expressing our solidarity with the Panamanian democratic people only from abroad. We decided to come here and express that solidarity in the land where a great struggle for democracy and freedom is taking place...."

Socioeconomic Developments

The local media reported the beginning of an oil exploration project off the Pacific coast of Panama. Panama City Cadena Exitosa on 24 January said the drilling site will be in the Gulf of Garachine. The exploratory phase is expected to last 3 to 4 months. The first well being drilled has been called the "Anayansi."

LA REPUBLICA on 24 January and LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 26 January reported on the Housing Ministry's decision to evict residents of the former Canal Zone who are behind in their rent payments. Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez has said Panamanian residents in the reverted areas owe the government $600,000, while the U.S. Government owes $900,000 in overdue rent.

Meanwhile, MEDIODIA on 27 January reported on a Labor Ministry announcement that 50 businesses will close or fire many of their workers in February. Labor Ministry spokesmen are cited as saying the ministry is prepared to handle this situation. Another MEDIODIA report on 30 January cited Victor Collado, deputy labor and social welfare minister, as saying that approximately 101 businesses will be forced to close or reduce their work force in February.

In a statement aired on Cadena Exitosa on 27 January, the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (FENASEP) "calls on all public employees and their corresponding labor unions to meet and organize a new campaign" to demand job security and payment of wages on the scheduled dates. FENASEP has threatened to go on strike if its demands are not met by the government.

In contrast to the above-mentioned reports on the deterioration of the economic situation, LA REPUBLICA on 27 January reported on statements by Mario de Diego, executive secretary of the National Banking Commission, who feels the situation of the national banking system will improve in 1989. Meanwhile, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 28 January reported on statements by Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the Panama Banking Association, who said the economic crisis is the result of political differences. Lasso feels that "the economic aspect of the problem will be solved once the political differences are solved."

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 26 and 27 January and MATUTINO on 27 January reported on donations from the Taiwan and Yugoslav governments. The Taiwan Government donated $100,000 in school supplies, while the Yugoslav Government donated $30,000 in medical equipment. The Yugoslav Government also announced it is considering the donation of prefabricated homes and furniture.

Argentina

Caputo on Ultra-Leftist Involvement in La Tablada

PY0102175289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Speaking about the La Tablada incident, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said a few minutes ago that it represents an attack on Argentine society by an irregular group of ultra leftists. He emphasized that it is obvious that ultra-leftist terrorism is not an isolated event in Argentina.

The foreign minister made it clear that this type of event has been reported in other Latin American and European countries. Thus, he added, an international connection with other subversive movements of this type cannot be ruled out. He said that it is being reviewed very carefully and that information is being gathered.

Caputo made these remarks at Ezeiza International Airport shortly before leaving for Caracas, heading an Argentine delegation that will participate in the inauguration ceremony of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez. President Alfonsin will not attend this ceremony for known reasons. President Alfonsin prefers to stay in Buenos Aires and I will be heading this delegation, he concluded.

Caputo Departs for Venezuela

PY0102142589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1350 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (TELAM)—Regarding the incident at the 3d Infantry Regiment in La Tablada, Foreign Minster Dante Caputo said today that "this is aggression. The extent and dimension of this aggression has yet to be defined."

Caputo added: "We need to be firm. This is essential if we are to defend society, but we also have to reflect on how to build a better society."

Foreign Minister Caputo made this statement minutes before departing for Caracas. He is heading the Argentine delegation attending inauguration ceremony of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez.

Terrorist Group Vows To Continue Struggle

PY0102150389 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1340 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Feb (AFP)—In Montevideo, the self-styled People's Resistance Front [Frente de Resistencia Popular] (FRP) organization today claimed responsibility for last week's guerrilla attack on the La Tablada barracks in Buenos Aires and vowed "to continue the struggle until a final victory is achieved."

In a communique published by the morning daily LA REPUBLICA [democratic left], which attributes the communique to the "fugitives who survived" the attack on the La Tablada barracks, the FRP says that it was created to prevent the military men from achieving their goals "by arrogant means." The FRP also warns that "as of today, they will also pay."

The FRP adds that "it is completely unfair for the repression to be concentrated on the All for the Fatherland Movement [Movimiento Todos Por la Patria] (MTP) because "only part of the MTP has joined the FRP while the rest is made up of associates [companeros] from other organizations."

The communique—classified as No 1—says that during the La Tablada incident, the FRP used 40 men and 6 women "armed with FAL rifles, shotguns, two antitank rocket launchers, 2 M79 grenade launchers, and 2 UZI submachineguns."

Explaining the reasons for the seizure of the La Tablada barracks, the FRP labelled "ridiculous" and "malicious" the attempt to describe the guerrilla action as an "action logistically and politically supported from abroad" or "an insane action by an elitist, messianic, or murderous group."

The FRP says that the reasons are to be found "well within our own country," adding that "the growing misery of the people" and "the unbelievably low wages "are among these reasons."

Among the other reasons for its action, the FRP adds that "those involved in the disappearance of men, women, and children, the torturers, and the murderers of defenseless people are free, demanding—and obtaining—from the government, and from the majority of the opposition, a justification for their crimes."

The communique adds: "Do you want us to forget? Do you want us to turn a blind eye? Do you want us to coexist with torturers, kidnappers, and murderers? We will not. On 23 January 1989 we said—enough."

The FRP adds that until measures "ensuring an honest standard of living for the people and the punishment of the criminals" are implemented, the FRP will continue to struggle.

Shots Fired at Police Building; No Casualties

PY3101182389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1522 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] La Plata, 31 Jan (TELAM)—According to Buenos Aires police sources, three unidentified persons in a car fired shots at the Buenos Aires police building located in Tigre.

The three people sped past the police unit in a black Ford Taurus and fired eight shots at the police building located at 1081 Garcia Street in Tigre. Some of the shots, which apparently were fired from rifles, hit the front of the building, but no one was hurt.

The incident occurred today at 0300.

Cattle Raising Deputy Secretary Installed

PY0202002589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1443 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (TELAM)—Agriculture, Cattle-raising, and Fishery Secretary Ernesto Figueras today installed the new cattle-raising deputy secretary, Daniel Iglesias Berrondo. The ceremony was held in the Gray Room of Agriculture, Cattle-Raising, and Fishery Secretariat.

Italy Grants Government $100-Million Loan

PY0102025289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2000 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Summary] Rome, 31 Jan (AFP)—It has been officially announced that the Governments of Italy and Argentina today signed an agreement by which Argentina can use a $100-million loan from Italy as of today. This loan is granted within the framework of the treaty signed by the two countries in December 1987. The loan will be used to finance the sale of Italian machinery to Argentine small industries.

Brazil

President Sarney Leaves for Venezuela

PY0102182089 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Excerpt] President Jose Sarney has just left the Brasilia Air Base for Caracas, Venezuela, where he will attend the inauguration of president-elect Carlos Andres Perez. Sarney will also attend a meeting with the Latin American presidents of the Group of 8. [passage omitted]

Sarney Will Attend Hirohito's Funeral

PY0102210089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Jan 89 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—President Jose Sarney has confirmed that he will attend Hirohito's funeral in Tokyo on 24 February.

The new Chamber of Deputies chairman, who will be elected on 15 February, will be the acting president during Sarney's absence.

President Sarney, who has just returned from a visit to Angola, will leave for Venezuela tomorrow to attend President-elect Carlos Andres Perez' inauguration ceremony. This will be the last time Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes will act as president in Sarney's absence.

Speaking of Sarney's trip to Tokyo, diplomatic advisers have emphasized that Japan is one of Brazil's largest trade partners, and that Brazil is currently negotiating Nakasoni Fund credit lines.

U.S. President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand have also confirmed that they will attend the funeral. President Sarney will have the opportunity of contacting them, as well as leaders of other countries.

Document Warns Against Soviet 'War Strategy'

PY0102234889 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jan 89 p A-15

[By Newton Carlos]

[Text] Parts of a secret military document have been published in Argentina. It states: "Subversion in the region increases as the democratization process advances." The document "summarizes" the conclusions reached during a "bilateral intelligence conference" held by the Argentine and Bolivian Armies. The contents of the document have not been contradicted, just as the report on the Armies of America meeting in Mar del Plata in November 1987 has not been contradicted.

The language used in the document is that of the national security doctrines. The Argentine and Bolivian military intelligence services, however, make a deeper "analysis" of the international situation and conclude that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's peace and disarmament proposals are part of "a different type of war strategy." The document states that, South Africa "is the last stronghold of the West, thanks to U.S. support." It adds that South America "is the part of the continent most affected by subversion plans implemented from abroad."

The new idea expressed in this document, however, is that "international ideological and democratic transnational currents" are responsible for the political instability currently affecting Central America. This statement is an indirect accusation against the social democratic and christian democratic political movements that have wide support in Western European democracies. These democratic movements support the International Socialist (social democratic) and the Christian Democratic World Organization, which have branches in almost all Latin American countries.

Argentine and Bolivian military intelligence organizations believe there is an "MCI—International Communist Movement—offensive" under way. They believe this offensive "foresees a real war on all fronts." The DDTT—"terrorist delinquents"—as they call them, continue being trained in Nicaragua and Cuba, while the USSR tries "to avoid open and conventional armed operations" and "plans the peace war," which is aimed

at "destabilizing the West's systems of government." According to the military document, "the antinuclear, peace, and ecological movements are key to the Soviet psychological offensive."

"The 'glasnost' being implemented by Gorbachev," is part of this "context." One of their "main strategic objectives is to separate Western Europe from the United States." International confrontation is still between East and West, between communism and capitalism, and one of "the most dangerous focuses of this confrontation is in Central America." In South America, "the subversion plans are aimed at all sectors of society," the document states.

Cocaine Seized, Trafficker Arrested

PY0102121989 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Summary] In Bauru, a city in the interior of Sao Paulo State, the Federal Police have seized 3.6 kg of pure cocaine.

Ana Maria dos Santos, 26, who was carrying the cocaine from Bolivia to Sao Paulo, is being held in Bauru at the disposal of the Federal Court.

Chile

Foreign Minister To Attend Hirohito Funeral

PY0101001389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] Acting Foreign Ministry spokesman Uldaricio Figueroa has reported that Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz will head the official Chilean delegation to Emperor Hirohito's funeral on 24 February. The delegation will also be comprised of Chilean Ambassador to Japan Gustavo Ponce Leru and Minister Errazuriz' chief of cabinet, Alfonso Silva.

Press reports that President Augusto Pinochet will attend the funeral are thus denied.

Spokesman Figueroa reported that the date of the foreign minister's departure has not been set.

Supreme Court Rejects Vicariate Appeal

PY3101210589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The Supreme Court today rejected an appeal by the Vicariate of Solidarity against military Judge Sergio Sea and ordered the seizure of the Vicariate's medical files. The Supreme Court ordered that the confiscation be made by Judge Sergio Sea himself.

The Supreme Court rejected the Vicariate's appeal by 12 votes to 4 and stated that the Vicariate has no legal basis to complain against the confiscation. The court also stated that the military prosecutor has made no mistake or committed any abuse in ordering the confiscation of the medical files.

Members of the Vicariate of Solidarity legal department are currently holding a meeting with the Vicariate's executive members to study the Supreme Court decision and plan the position they will adopt.

[Begin relay from Plaza de Armas] We are now reporting from the Plaza de Armas. A water cannon vehicle placed in front of the cathedral is trying to disband a group of people who are gathered in front of the Vicariate of Solidarity to express their support for the Vicariate and their desire to defend human rights.

A vehicle used to spread tear gas has just arrived, but it has not gone into action yet. The demonstrators are cheering: Chile now defends the Vicariate!

Some posters and banners call for truth and justice and refer to the recent discovery of corpses on Tocopilla. The people who were watching the demonstration at the Plaza de Armas have started to support the demonstrators by clapping hands and repeating some slogans in favor of the Vicariate of Solidarity.

The water cannon vehicle is shooting strong jets of water at the Vicariate of Solidarity entrance and at the Manantiales Book Store. The strong water jet almost hit us. The water cannon is shooting water jets around the entire square, and the tear gas has started to affect our vision. Apparently, the water also contains a strong acid.

That is all we can report for the moment. Now back to the main studio. [end relay]

This was a report from the Plaza de Armas, where demonstrators expressed their support for the Vicariate of Solidarity, whose appeal to the court complaining about the confiscation of its medical files has been rejected by the Supreme Court.

Electoral Campaign Discussed at Cabinet Meeting

PY0202022489 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The government has stressed that it will keep out of the election campaign because the naming of candidates is up to the political parties and the independents. This was stated by Interior Minister Carlos Caceres during a 2-hour cabinet meeting, in which he was the main speaker. The meeting was presided over by General Pinochet.

During the cabinet meeting Minister Caceres also called on all the regime's supporters to overcome quarrels, infighting, and disagreements, because at times, he said, they are incidental.

The main point, he added, is to give to Chile a stable institutionality in an orderly fashion so that the work of these 15 years can be continued.

The report on the cabinet meeting was given by Acting Minister Secretary General of Government Jaime Garcia.

[Begin Garcia recording] Regarding presidential candidates, he reiterated that the naming of candidates must be left to the political parties and independent sectors.

He indicated the need of approving the Electoral Law as soon as possible, because it establishes the guidelines that the political parties need to organize their campaigns. [end recording]

Finally, the acting minister reiterated the fact that electoral pacts will not be allowed, and that within the judicial sphere the situation of the Vicariate of Solidarity will not be referred to.

FPMR Faction Vows To Prevent Elections

PY0101001789 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Text] The autonomous faction of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, FPMR, has warned that it will do everything in its power to prevent the general election scheduled for the end of 1989.

The election process does not satisfy the aspirations for freedom, and it is not the way to put an end to President Pinochet's government, the faction indicates in an note summing up the resolutions of its leadership that were announced during a clandestine news conference.

No details were revealed.

We do not want a pseudodemocracy managed by the coupist military. We will make no deals with the dictatorship, and we will continue to hit its installations in order to defeat it, the note adds.

Government Changes Lawyers on Treaty Commission

PY0102175989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Uldarico Figueroa has confirmed that the government has revoked the power of attorney granted to the lawyers who represent our country on the five-jurist International Commission. This commission was created by the 1914 Treaty, and it was named by the United States to deal with the Letelier case.

The decision has already been revealed to Chilean Lawyer (Rondo Vargas Carreno), who since 1977 has been Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission at the OAS, headquartered in Washington, and to Polish lawyer (Michael Flash), former Chairman of the The Hague International Court of Justice. These two lawyers were appointed in 1972, during the government of Salvador Allende.

Uldaricio Figueroa stated that this decision has also been disclosed to the U.S. Administration, and that the decision to annul the power of attorney granted to those lawyers has been made in compliance with the power granted to the two governments by Article 2 of the treaty signed by Chile and the United States.

Figueroa added that no decision had been made yet regarding substitutes. He said that according to the Constitution, the president of the Republic is in charge of appointing the substitutes. The international Committe is made up of five members. Each country chooses two, and a fifth is designated in common agreement by the two countries.

Asked whether this measure implies that Chile will accept the implementation of the treaty, Figueroa stated that no decision has been reached and that the application or rejection of the treaty is still under study.

Central Bank Details 1988 Trade Surplus Figures

PY0101002689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Summary] A Central Bank bulletin has reported that the Chilean trade surplus in 1988 amounted to more than $2 billion, 80 percent more than in 1987. Exports amounted to $7,510,000,000 and imports to $4,833,000,000. Exports increased by 35 percent and imports by 21 percent.

Bomb Deactivated at Vina del Mar Hotel

PY3101015489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Report from Vina del Mar by Miguel Angel Stuart]

[Text] At 1650 [1950 GMT] this afternoon the Vina del Mar Carabineros Headquarters received a telephone call from the O'Higgins Hotel in Vina del Mar, indicating that there was a bomb in one of the rooms.

Personnel of the Special Operation Patrol immediately went to the hotel; in room 440 they found a package containing 2 kg of plastic explosive and 1.5 kg of TNT. This bomb, containing 3.5 kg of explosives, had 7 electrical detonating systems.

The personnel of the Special Operations Patrol deactivated the device just after 1830, and normal work at the hotel resumed.

MIR Claims Bomb Plot

PY3101131989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0026 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Santiago, 30 Jan (EFE)—The "Movement of the Revolutionary Left" (MIR) today claimed the bomb attack on a hotel in the seaside city of Vina del Mar. The bomb was deactivated by the police. [passage omitted]

Through phone calls to the media, the "Military Commission" of the MIR said that the bomb had been planted by its "Pablo Vergara Toledo and Araceli Romo Command." [passage omitted]

The MIR spokesman said that through a taped message and a phone call to the O'Higgins Hotel "a warning was issued to save innocent victims."

The spokesman threatened to repeat the attack to protest the international Vina del Mar Song Festival which will begin on 17 February.

The MIR was created at the Concepcion University in the 1960's and has been harassed by the Chilean military regime. It is now divided into two branches: a political faction, which is part of the United Left, and the "Military Commission."

Ecuador

Official on New Venezuelan, U.S. Governments

PA3101211889 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 29 Jan 89

[Text] The government has given due importance to the democratic change of government that will take place in Venezuela when Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi hands power to President-elect Carlos Andres Perez. This is why Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja will be going to that country. He will be accompanied by the foreign, government, and energy and mines ministers of Ecuador as well as by other important officials. Washington Herrera, secretary general of Ecuadoran Public Administration, reports:

[Begin Herrera recording] The brotherly people of Venezuela have an established democracy that resulted after some conflicts with guerrillas in that country. Venezuelan democracy is demonstrating its strength and its substantial capability of democratically choosing new presidents.

On this occasion, Carlos Andres Perez will become a two-time president. This is a good sign for Ecuador, because Perez and the president of Ecuador have been friends for a long time. We hope the two nations will implement firm actions within the framework of Latin American cooperation and brotherhood. [end recording]

In his statement to journalists this Saturday, Herrera also spoke about the new U.S. President's Latin American policy in general and toward our country in particular.

[Begin Herrera recording] We are pleased with the understanding the U.S. Government has demonstrated. It has seen that the Ecuadoran Government is serious and responsible in leading the country. As long as there is clarity and honesty in the attitudes of the two governments, relations will remain good and even improve.

We are talking with banks and have noticed that the U.S. Government has changed its position on the need to politically focus on a problem that affects all the people of Latin America, the foreign debt problem. [end recording]

Our source is optimistic about the revival of the Andean Pact.

[Begin Herrera recording] We believe that once Carlos Andres Perez assumes leadership of Venezuela, he will make evident his pragmatic views on Andean integration. We have just received from the president authorization to sign a $20-million contract on credit for Andean trade.

I hope that in the next few days, while the president is in Caracas, this contract will go into effect so Ecuador may sell more to the Andean Pact. [end recording]

In commenting on national affairs, Herrera said: We Ecuadorans must control our desires so we all may contribute to reducing unrest and speculation, realizing that the struggle against inflation is a constant national objective.

Paraguay

Police Cordon Off Church in Coronel Oviedo

PY0102204689 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Feb 89 p 9

[By special correspondent]

[Excerpts] Coronel Oviedo—Yesterday, police from the government representative office in Coronel Oviedo cordoned off the San Pedro Church. They dispersed people who were trying to enter the church and, according to an eye witness, even fired shots in the air.

The police thereby stopped people from attending a penance ceremony "for reconciliation and peace, and for the protection of human rights," which was held despite many restrictions. This religious ceremony was held to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the siege of San Pedro Church in Coronel Oviedo. Father Eugene O'Connolly was in charge of delivering a sermon.

Several people were arrested at the local government representative office in connection with the incident. Among them were three EL DIARIO reporters, who after being questioned were escorted to the international road at the outskirts of the city. The police confiscated the journalists' identification cards, their personal cassettes, and film. [passage omitted]

Among those still under detention last night at the government representative office were: Alcides Frutos, a PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] leader; Reinaldo Franco, a lawyer; Delfina Torres de Ayala and her husband; Miguel Rojas, a Radio Caritas reporter, who was released at approximately 2200; Alberto Samudio a PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party] leader; and leaders of religious groups and representatives from the Coronel Oviedo Pastoral Action Youth Group. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Closes Money Exchange Houses

PY2801150189 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Jan 89 p 13

[Text] Yesterday the Central Bank released Resolution No 2, "lifting the authorization of exchange houses to operate in the country." Therefore, the Guarani, Boqueron, and International exchange houses, which are located on Palma Street, closed at noon yesterday.

The branches of these exchange houses in Puerto Presidente Stroessner, Encarnacion, and Pedro Juan Caballero also stopped operating. It was learned yesterday afternoon that the government financial adviser will conduct strict controls through the bank superintendency to prevent clandestine operations, and that harsh penalties will be applied to exchange houses that violate the Central Bank's extreme measure, which is aimed at protecting the value of the guarani currency.

Department of Narcotics, Drugs Changes Name

PY2601195189 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 26 Jan 89 p 24

[Summary] The name of the National Department of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was changed to the National Narcotic Directorate, DINAR. The change is provided for in the new law that represses and punishes drug trafficking. DINAR will operate with the Interior, Education, and Health Ministries.

Peru

Garcia Departs Peru, Arrives in Venezuela

PY0202015289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] In his first contact with the press in Caracas, President Alan Garcia emphasized the need for Latin American integration to meet the foreign debt problem. President Garcia added that every country can use its own model to solve this problem.

President Garcia left Peru this morning from the 8th Air Group on board a Peruvian Air Force plane at the head of an official delegation. He arrived at Simon Bolivar Airport at 1400 and was welcomed by Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Role in La Tablada Rejected

PY3101142589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1926 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Lima, 30 Jan (EFE)—Analysts of Shining Path actions in Lima today termed as "invention" and "journalistic imagination" the report that the Maoist Shining Path group may have supplied weapons to the Argentine rebels who last week attacked an Army garrison in Buenos Aires.

"Analysts of the Shining Path" told EFE that the tactics used by the All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP) in the attack on the 3d Infantry Regiment are not the same as those used by the Shining Path. They also said that the Peruvian terrorists do not have long-range modern weapons. [passage omitted]

A Peruvian Interior Ministry source consulted by EFE discarded the possibility that the Shining Path may have supported the MTP with modern weapons because the Maoist group "has no great firepower."

The source stated: "It is inconceivable that the Shining Path would provide weapons to an ideologically opposed seditious group."

Senator Enrique Bernales of the United Left (IU) communist front has stated that the Shining Path uses dynamite, explosives, and homemade weapons, or weapons stolen from the forces of order.

"Until it is proved, the relationship (between the Shining Path and MTP) is about as fantastic as a milonga [popular Argentine song or dance]," Bernales added. Bernales is chairman of a Chamber of Deputies committee studying political and urban violence in Peru.

A Peruvian Navy officer has stated that Shining Path military tactics are nothing like the open strategy employed by the Argentine movement. The Argentine terrorists used Chinese-made weapons, which is unheard of among the Peruvian guerrillas. [passage omitted]

MRTA Branch Accused of Murder Attempt

PY3101180089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1943 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Lima, 30 Jan (EFE)—According to the magazine OIGA, the student Revolutionary Movement of Peru [Movimiento Estudiantil Revolucionario] (MER), tried to kill Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa 11 days ago. The MER is considered the armed branch of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

The Peruvian weekly OIGA today published a detailed report on the 19 January incident at Pucallpa airport. Pucallpa is the capital of Ucayalli Department, northeast of Lima.

Vargas Llosa was scheduled to arrive in Pucallpa on one of the political campaign trips he is making throughout the country. He is the leader of the Libertad Movement.

Aquiles Munoz, deputy mayor of the "Los Jardines" neighborhood in Pucallpa, near the airport, was warned by the "Peasant Defense Group" [Policia vecinal] about the presence of two suspicious people prowling in the area.

When Munoz and some members of the "Neighborhood Defense Group" intercepted the suspects, they dropped what apperared to be a ball. It was later discovered to be a homemade bomb.

The alleged terrorists, seeing that the group was only armed with sticks, fired their revolvers. Four members of the "Neighborhood Defense Group" sustained bullet wounds, some serious.

After the alleged terrorists escaped, the abandoned bomb was found to contain one and a half kg of dynamite, nails, buckshot, and pieces of metal. It is believed that they were going to use it against Vargas Llosa's plane.

OIGA reported that the number of students in the Peruvian Amazon joining the MER of the MRTA is increasing.

The MER is "apparently an armed branch of the MRTA, in charge of selective anihilation tasks," OIGA states. Their information is based on the investigations carried out in Pucallpa.

Journalist, Family Killed in Ayacucho 30 Jan

PY3101125589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1643 GMT 30 Jan 89

[Text] Ayacucho, 30 Jan (EFE)—Journalist Juvenal Farfan Anaya and his entire family were shot dead in their house by six hooded men in this Andean city this morning.

Albertina Palomino witnessed the incident. He said that the murderers did not disclose their political leanings.

Farfan Anaya was a member of the ruling APRA party. He was a leader of the education sector.

The murderers entered Farfan's house at 0630 local time (1130 GMT) and killed him, his wife Elediza Gonzalez, who was a teacher, and their two university student children, Juvenal and Julia.

Farfan Anaya was a program director for Radio Ayacucho. His brother Odilon Farfan, who is also a journalist, left this southern Peruvian city some time ago after receiving death threats from the "Rodrigo Franco Guerra" ultra-rightist command.

On 26 January Juvenal Farfan Anaya attended a meeting at the Ayacucho graveyard, where threats against two journalists had been painted. The threats were attributed to the "Rodrigo Franco Guerra" command.

Terrorists Attack Azangaro Village, Kill Seven

PY0101005589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0507 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Lima, 30 Jan (EFE)—Puno Department judicial sources today reported that seven people, including civilian authorities and community leaders, were murdered by a group of alleged Shining Path members.

The attack was carried out by about 100 terrorists, who stormed the village of San Jose, Azangaro Province, 120 km north of Puno, the department capital, and 1,325 km southeast Lima. Besides the murders, the terrorists also looted and set on fire some stores and public places.

According to the sources, the attack took place on 29 January at dawn and the victims were the San Jose governor, the mayor, a councilman, a former governor, and three community leaders, one of whom was a woman.

One of the places set on fire and attacked with dynamite was the state telephone company, whose employees today started an indefinite national strike. [passage omitted]

Alleged Terrorists Kill Police Chief

PY0102174689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0001 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cerro de Pasco (Peru), 31 Jan (EFE)—The police today reported that alleged Maoist guerrillas shot dead a Civil Guards chief in the Andean Province of Cerro de Pasco.

The source added that four individuals last night ambushed Police Chief Cesar Chavez Vila, 45, and shot him twice in the head before he had an opportunity to defend himself. "This is typical of the Shining Path Maoist group," he added.

Eyewitnesses told police that the guerrillas threw dynamite sticks as they fled, damaging a public administration building.

The police chief was finishing his final year in education at a local university and was about to be transferred to Lima.

Cerro de Pasco is located 315 km northwest of Lima and has been under a state of emergency since last year. [passage omitted]

New Nuclear Institute President Sworn In

PY3101024789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Summary] During a ceremony presided over the energy and mines minister, Jorge Aurelio Bravo Cabrejos was today sworn in as the new president of the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy. Bravo has master degrees in nuclear energy and high atmosphere physics from U.S. universities.

Uruguay

President Sanguinetti Departs for Venezuela

PY0102140589 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti is at this moment on his way from Bogota, Colombia to Caracas, where he will attend the inauguration ceremony of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

Broad Front Issues Statement on La Tablada Attack

PY3101221689 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1320 GMT 31 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 31 Jan (AFP)—The leftist Broad Front, which in Uruguay includes the Communists, Socialists, Christian Democrats, and independents, today expressed its "most firm and profound rejection" of any type of rebellion or terrorist action, referring to the bloody takeover of the La Tablada regiment in Argentina.

In a statement on that incident, the coalition points out that "while we reject" the two recent military uprisings in that country, we also "condemn the assault on the La Tablada garrison and the deeply negative effects on the popular and democratic struggle for national liberation." [passage omitted]

The statement stresses that the Broad Front "adds its voice to those of the Argentine and international organizations that are demanding a thorough, independent investigation."

It also expresses the regrets of the left at "the loss of life on both sides" and it indicates its rejection of "the methods that were used in putting down the assault, which were in contrast to those used in the military uprisings."

Venezuela

Further on Leaders Arriving for Inauguration

Spain's Gonzalez Arrives

LD0102121189 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0700 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Report by Caracas correspondent Juan Luis Diaz Prat]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived in Caracas denying that Spain has turned its back on America. On the contrary, Spain's presence in the community has already improved the relations between Europe and Latin America, said the Spanish prime minister shortly after arriving in the Venezuelan capital, where tomorrow he will attend the presidential investiture of his friend and fellow socialist, Carlos Andres Perez. [passage omitted]

Immediately after arriving in Caracas, Felipe Gonzalez was received by Carlos Andres Perez. They talked for 45 minutes, especially about the foreign debt, a matter that particularly concerns the new Venezuelan president. Arriving in Caracas, the Spanish prime minister stressed that to a large extent the debt is unpayable:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] I believe that to a large extent it is unpayable; therefore, alternative solutions in which viability plans are included must be sought. However, in short it is probably one of the key questions in the future relationship between Europe, Latin America, and undoubtedly, given the importance of the position they take, the United States and Japan. [end recording]

Further Arrivals Noted

PA0102191989

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 1 February 1989 carries a report on the arrival in Caracas today of heads of state, presidents, prime ministers, and delegations who will attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez. The station says that Honduran President Jose Azcona was the first to arrive, followed by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, and Portuguese President Mario Soares, who all arrived yesterday.

The station reports that Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has been at Maiquetia International Airport since 0800 this morning, where he has so far welcomed 6 of the 23 heads of state scheduled to arrive today.

The report adds that Trinidadian and Tobagan Prime Minister Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson; Barbadian Prime Minister Lloyd Erskine Sandiford; Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja; Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti; Colombian President Virgilio Barco; Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo; and Hugh Desmond Hoyte, president of the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana, have all arrived on schedule.

The station notes that Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will not attend the inauguration ceremony due to an attempt last week by a subversive group in that country to take over a military garrison. Adolfo Gass, president of the Argentine Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, has arrived in his place.

The station also reports that Portuguese President Soares met with Perez this morning, although details of the meeting were not announced.

Fidel Castro Arrives 2 Feb

PA0202121889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1150 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 2 Feb (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived in Venezuela today to attend the inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez.

Castro, dressed in fatigues, arrived at Maiquetia International Airport, 25 km from Caracas, amid much security.

The Cuban president and his delegation arrived aboard two Cuban airplanes and immediately traveled to the capital.

Castro's Comments Noted

FL0202114589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1122 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Monitored in progress from "Haciendo Radio" program]

[text] ...when questioned by the local press at the airport, Fidel attributed great symbolism to the inauguration of Carlos Andres Perez and the meeting of the more than 25 chiefs of state and government there to attend the presidential inauguration at 0900 Havana time [1400 GMT]. He said that at this moment he is coordinating interviews because he will receive many of these chiefs of state and government at the place he is staying. He said that this is a good opportunity to discuss several problems that are of interest to Latin America and other topics that are not only of interest to Latin America, but of interest to the rest of the underdeveloped world.

In this sense, I can assure you that the commander in chief says that there is a spirit of willingness to work in the same direction. He said that no spectacular results can be expected from the conferences or the meetings that will be held in Caracas during the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Perez. Nevertheless, he said, this opportunity is truly magnificent.

A journalist also asked him if he was going to meet with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who is also in Caracas. Fidel recalled that Quayle said he had stressed that there would be two leaders with whom he had no intention of meeting: Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Cuban President Fidel Castro. Nevertheless, Fidel said he had no prejudice against meeting with the U.S. vice president.

This is the report I have for you, dear friends. I would like to remind you that Sebastian Alegrett, one of the main collaborators of President-elect Perez of Venezuela and former secretary general of the SELA, and Brigade General (Herminio Juan Mayor Perreira) received the commander in chief at 0457 Caracas time, when the plane landed. The commander in chief disembarked from the IL-62 onto Venezuelan territory at 0500.

I will allow myself to remind you that this is the second trip that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has made to Venezuela. The first was made in 1957 [as heard], shortly after the triumph of the revolution. Fidel's arrival in Caracas has led to great joy among the Venezuelan population.

Oil Ministers Back OPEC Presidential Summit

PA0102005389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0002 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] The OPEC oil ministers meeting in Caraballeda unanimously agreed today to hold a presidential summit, an idea proposed by Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez as a way to reach a permanent agreement on OPEC prices and policies. The oil ministers meeting in Caraballeda also agreed that they will decide at the regular OPEC meeting scheduled for March on the strategy and guidelines to be followed at the summit.

Suriname

Delegation Departs for Perez Inauguration

FL0102175189 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Text] Vice President Henck Arron is leading Suriname's delegation to the inauguration of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. The Surinamese delegation, which left today, also includes Foreign Minister Eddy Sedoc and member of the National Assembly Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs (Rupert Moitnier). The delegation, which will spend 1 week in Venezuela, is also expected to hold talks with the country's authorities.

Perez was Venezuela's president in the 1970's. Last year, December, he ousted President Lusinchi when he [words indistinct] the polls in that country.

Among regional leaders to attend the inauguration is President Fidel Castro of Cuba.